

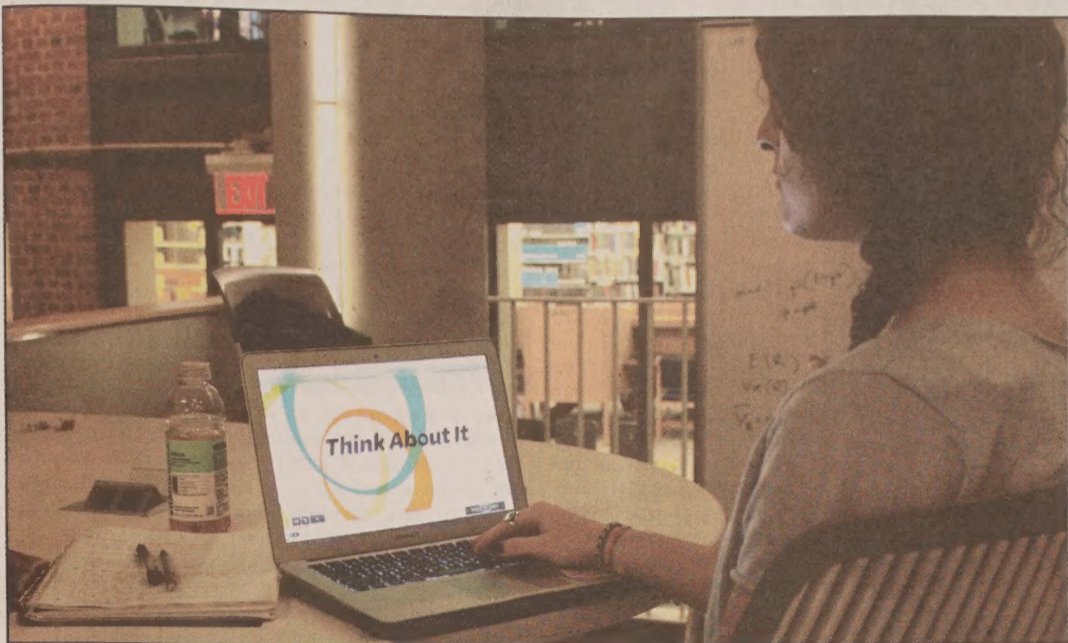
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COURTESY OF MORGAN OME

Even though the University has claimed that Think About It takes 45 minutes to complete, the module typically takes 90 minutes to finish.

Sexual assault module frustrates students

By MORGAN OME
Layout Editor

Many have criticized “Think About It,” an on-line training module aiming to educate students on sexual assault, which was recently sent to juniors and seniors.

Critics feel frustrated with how the mandatory module characterizes sexual assault and portrays it in relation to drug and alcohol use. In response, the University has defended Think About It, and plans to continue using it. Hop-

kins will require all incoming freshmen classes to complete the module.

In an email sent on Feb. 28, Title IX Coordinator Joy Gaslevic and Dean of Student Life Terry Martinez informed upperclassmen that they must complete the training by Apr. 29 or face holds on their SIS accounts.

Current sophomores completed the module last year and the freshman class took it over the summer.

“This training effort is aimed at preventing and

addressing sexual misconduct in connection with University education programs and activities,” Gaslevic and Martinez wrote.

Hopkins joins over 300 colleges and universities that use “Think About It” for Title IX training. CampusClarity, a joint initiative from the University of San Francisco and LawRoom, created the module. CampusClarity is owned by Everfi, an education technology company.

Gaslevic explained that the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) and the Sexual Violence Advisory Committee (SVAC) vetted a variety of different modules before selecting Think About It. Gaslevic said that they selected Everfi because of its interactive and informative training module, and she said it has received positive feedback from students at other institutions.

Think About It includes four sections: “sex

in college,” “partying smart,” “sexual violence” and “healthy relationships.” According to CampusClarity’s website, the course is intended to prepare and educate students entering college.

One of the concerns cited by students is how some sections of the module define rape. Junior Juliet Villegas was concerned that it did not take into consideration all rape victims.

“It said that rape was essentially penetration through the vagina. However, that excludes a large part of rape victims,” she said.

But Gaslevic stressed that the University does not support this definition. The module includes multiple definitions since there are discrepancies between how Maryland, the federal government and Hopkins determine what “rape” is.

“The Think About It module does reference Maryland law

New café supports workers with autism

By KAREN WANG
Staff Writer

Sam’s Canterbury Café opened two weeks ago with the mission of providing meaningful employment to adults on the autism spectrum.

The café, located on W. 39th Street and Canterbury Road, was inspired by its namesake Sam Myers, whose parents sought to provide a workplace that was suitable not only for Sam, but for other adults on the spectrum as well.

The Café, which replaced Chocolatea, opened with the help of Itineris, an organization that aims to guide individuals with autism spectrum disorder to develop the skills necessary for an independent work environment. Itineris recognized Sam as a good fit for food service because of his friendly personality. This encouraged Sam’s parents to open the café.

Out of the sixteen staff members, the café currently employs six adults with autism, including Sam himself.

The café was designed

with the hope of creating a familiar and soothing environment not only for customers, but also for the workers on the spectrum.

The layout, design and colors of the café are purposefully kept uniform and simple. The walls are decorated with artwork from the facility itself to evoke a feeling of comfort.

Elli Straus, the general manager at the café who has known Sam and his family for over 20 years, praised the opportunities it provides for adults with autism.

“Once adults [on the spectrum] age out of the [school] system, there are... most certainly, limited meaningful employment opportunities, apart from doing something very repetitive or monotonous,” she said.

Straus said that many employers are hesitant to hire workers with autism.

“Because adults on the spectrum have varied independence levels and different skill levels, it is often difficult for employers to readily accept them into a job. Some may

SEE SAM’S CAFE, PAGE A6

Chopra argues tech can foster trust in the state

By ALYSSA WOODEN
Staff Writer

Former Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of the United States Aneesh Chopra explored how the U.S. government could improve trust in the digital era at the latest Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) talk.

His lecture, titled “The Innovative State,” took place on Wednesday evening in Mudd Hall.

Keeping in line with this year’s FAS theme of “Undercurrent,” Chopra, who was CTO under President Barack Obama, argued that the state should use technology to disrupt the status quo.

Chopra, Hopkins Class of 1994, focused his talk on the way technology has reshaped how people see the world and how governments operate.

He began by providing background about the way technology can be used to improve public health. He explained that GPS technology was originally a government-funded innovation that has been opened for commercial use. When a re-

searcher put GPS chips on inhalers and recorded the time and place of asthma attacks, they could easily identify the polluted areas in cities associated with more attacks.

According to Chopra, these discoveries led to pollution reduction that directly attacked the root cause of the problem.

“The internet economy is making our personal lives so much richer.”

— ANEESH CHOPRA,
FMR. CTO OF THE
UNITED STATES

economic benefit, which is better outcomes at lower costs,” he said.

He stressed the importance of these technologies in improving public health in the United States.

“That’s the art of the possible,” Chopra said. “And the role that I played for President Obama was very much tied to this hypothesis. If we can harness the full power and potential of the internet, we can actually find a way to make our government work better [so] that we can solve problems.”

SEE CHOPRA, PAGE A5



COURTESY OF KAREN WANG

Sam’s Café, which replaced Chocolatea, hires workers with autism.

Shriver Hall will close for the fall semester

By NEHAL AGGARWAL
For The News-Letter

The University’s largest auditorium space on campus, Shriver Hall, will undergo renovations at the end of this summer. The building will remain open through Sept. 4. Shriver hosts widely attended performance events like the Orientation Shows (O-Show) and the Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium (MSE).

Facilities and Real Estate Project Manager Michael Gourley said the construction is expected to last until the beginning of the

spring 2018 semester.

Built in 1965, Gourley explained that Shriver has lighting and wiring problems that pose a safety hazard. The renovations are currently being designed, but will focus on the system controls for the stage, and house and stage lighting. According to Gourley, all of the student groups affected by the renovation were notified at the onset of the project.

MSE and dance performance groups are the ones most affected by the change. Other performance groups, including a cappella groups on cam-

pus, usually use spaces like the Bloomberg Center or Mudd Hall for their performances.

Ana Moszkowski, a member of the Sirens, an all-female a cappella group, laid out how the renovations would impact performance groups.

“[I]t won’t affect us that much but it’ll affect the general arts performances because there’s no other big performance space,” Moszkowski wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. “A lot of groups use the other rooms in Shriver as rehearsal space. We al-

ready have really limited space for that.”

Senior Isaac Nemzer, a member of the All Nighters, an all-male a cappella group, explained in an email to *The News-Letter*, that the renovations could potentially cause scheduling conflicts.

“The bigger question for us is where the larger combined concerts are going to take place,” Nemzer wrote. “This especially applies to the O-Show. There have been ideas thrown around to have the O-Show in the gym or a location like

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Revisiting Flavor of Love

Kyra Lesser explains why rapper Flavor Flav’s dating show was a highlight of early 2000s reality TV.
ARTS, PAGE B4



To tattoo or not to tattoo?

Alyssa Remshak answers the questions she often receives about her decision to get a tattoo.
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Check out Baltimore shows

Renee Scavone shares why students should go to local Baltimore theater productions.
YOUR WEEKEND, PAGE B2

NEWS & FEATURES

Forums on Race panelists share experiences as minorities in the U.S.



KUNAL MAITI/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Black, queer and Muslim panelists shared their experiences of being minorities in this country.

By **KAREN WANG**
Staff Writer

As a part of the Forums on Race in America series, the Office of the Provost hosted "A Discussion of Intersecting Dimensions of Identity," featuring panelists who discussed their experiences as underrepresented minorities and the necessity for activism.

The discussion took place on Tuesday in Shriver Hall and was moderated by Norma Day-Vines, a professor in the School of Education.

Payton Head, who was one of the panelists, was the former student body president at the University of Missouri (Mizzou) as well as the leader of the 2015 Mizzou protests that led to the resignation of their university president. He talked about the challenges of being both black and gay.

"I didn't know how I was able to tell my family I was gay. Sexuality was something I was bullied for and I knew that someday I would have to come into my own and recognize that I'm powerful; I'm wonderful just the way I am. I felt like I didn't fit in with the black kids," he said. "I felt that I was too gay for the black kids and too black for the gay kids."

He described his initial apprehension to run for a position in student government.

"I remember having this feeling of a really nasty pit in my stomach throughout the entire election process because I really didn't think I could do it, and people looked at me like I had the audacity to try," he said. "[My vice president and I] came together, and we decided to embark on this mission that wasn't quite completed before: to be the first black elected student leaders at the University of Missouri, together on one ticket."

He explained what pushed him to run in the end.

"We really decided to embark on a campaign that would create conversations about the changes that needed to happen on campus for every single type of student," he said.

Mo Speller, a transgender Ph.D. student in the History department, researches the male-biased history at Hopkins and the importance of creating all-inclusive bathroom spaces. He began by speaking about his own experiences with restrooms.

"Bathroom spaces as a trans person at Hopkins — who in other contexts has faced physical threats because of my gender ex-

pression — can be anxiety-provoking for me," Speller said. "In being attentive to bathrooms, I started thinking about other types of people that are excluded on campus implicitly by the bathroom access that we have available."

Speller went on to outline how Hopkins began adding women's restrooms to buildings after it became co-ed.

"One of the big things that I noticed was how much the history of Hopkins as being an all-men's college is very much alive and well in terms of some of the buildings," Speller said. "The women's restrooms are kind of inserted as an afterthought, or there's not as many women's restrooms as men's restrooms."

Another point he raised was how many of the bathrooms are not accommodating to those who have disabilities.

"Many of the major institutional buildings don't have basic ADA

[Americans with Disabilities Act] compliance in most of the bathrooms," he said. "These things helped me to consider my privilege as an able-bodied person... and to think about the different ways that these very basic kinds of accommodations can make people feel excluded on campus or hinder the work of learning."

Panelist Monica Yorkman, who is a co-founder of the Baltimore Transgender Alliance and is also black and transgender, stated that her work was inspired by many instances of injustice she faced throughout her life.

She spoke about her initial challenges in confronting her own identity. "There were all these instances in my life that left my parents confused about me, [but] I was never confused about me," Yorkman said. "The only thing that caused confusion about me was never having the lan-

guage to understand me and fighting against systems that left me not being able to advocate for myself."

This hesitation changed as she learned more about the hardships experienced by those like her.

"It wasn't until [I was] almost dying [when] I finally found the voice and courage to advocate for myself," she said. "Then [I] found myself in situations where I advocated for others, because I found that others were, dying at an earlier age than me — through violence, through discrimination and through lack of opportunity. There's something that burns in me that just says that there's something wrong with that picture and needs to change."

Panelist Laila Alawa is the founder of The Temperament, a company that connects female leaders around the world. She is also a Muslim-American who came of age during 9/11. Alawa has faced physical threats and harassments throughout her life because of her religion. She explained what it was like being an oppressed minority, or the "other" in society.

"I have been visibly 'other' since [I was] ten years old," she said. "American Muslims have dealt with Islamophobia whether they are immi-

grants [or not]. This reality of being visibly 'other' led to my understanding that the world was something that I had the ability to really do something about."

She spoke about one specific incidence during her time studying at Wellesley in which she almost was not allowed to go on a research trip because of her headscarf.

"It was in that moment and in that trip that I realized that I have to keep proving myself as a good Muslim woman and dealing with these BS stereotypes [that others are] imposing on me," she said. "If I tell you this is who I am, then deal with it."

Alawa also described her experience in pitching a story to *The Huffington Post* about the feminist protests that took place after the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombings.

Throughout this article, she realized the impact that social media could have in spreading her message.

"What you see now on a day-to-day basis is that social media and media have be-

come one, and that media quite literally is shifting the future of policy, politics, culture, and it's interwoven," she said. "My purpose is to democratize access to voices that we don't really hear from and do it while being mainstream."

The speakers were also

invited to speak about millennialism and its influence on activism. Yorkman, who is not a millennial, emphasized the weight she believed millennials now carry.

"[Millennials] are not as uptight about gender and racial kinds of things in general. But what happens is [that] in other communities they run into and in other communities that they meet, they run into a lot of resistance," Yorkman said. "Millennials are going to have to carry the torch in the time where I thought millennials would enjoy the benefits of elders."

Head additionally emphasized that millennials now have a responsibility to work towards a truly equitable society.

"I think for millennials, we have to recognize that we stand on the shoulders of somebody who has done this work," he said. "I think understanding the systems of oppression that exist, and... many of us have the opportunities to be in these educational institutions where we can learn about our pasts and use it as fuel to teach us how to create a more equitable future for all of us."

Head specifically spoke about the role of universities in bringing about change.

"[I was told once] that racism and this idea of exclusion is one of the most viral and biggest diseases that we have in our nation," he said. "What if we treated universities like hospitals to cure racism? It's on us now more than ever to make these societal changes."

"I felt that I was too gay for the black kids, and too black for the gay kids."

— **PAYTON HEAD,**
FORMER MIZZOU
PROTEST LEADER

Prof. debuts book on Victorian novel through a moral lens



COURTESY OF SAMANTHA SETO

Professor Jesse Rosenthal discussed his new book about Victorian narratives and morality.

By **SARAH Y. KIM**
Staff Writer

Jesse Rosenthal, assistant professor and director of undergraduate studies for the Hopkins English department, gave a talk on his 2016 book *Good Form: The Ethical Experience of the Victorian Novel*.

In his talk, which happened on Thursday at Barnes & Noble, Rosenthal argued that when reading novels, people of the Victorian era thought about their narrative forms in moral terms.

He began with reflecting on the experience of reading a book that is hard to put down.

"What is that experience?" he asked. "How do you describe that experience of something pulling you along? For the Victorians, this was a huge part of the novelist's skill. This was a huge part of what actu-

ally novels did. What is that pull? How do you describe that force that a novel narrative, moving over time, exerts?"

He also contemplated on readers' fixation on satisfying endings.

"We're usually vaguely aware that we're pleased with a good ending," he said. "You only realize how much you expected on an ending being satisfying when you get a bad ending. You hear the complaints about the ending of serial TV shows, where people feel like they put all this effort into them and end in the wrong place."

Rosenthal said that being "pulled along" by a novel and the necessity readers feel for stories to end with everything in its proper place went hand in hand.

"The feeling of being pulled along somehow has to do something with setting things up in a

way, that you have some idea where it should change to," he said. "A conclusion being where things don't have to change anymore."

He said that while literary critics, narrative theorists and narra-

tologists work to describe what experiences story structures convey, ultimately these descriptions fall flat.

"It's sort of weird because it's one of the main things that people who study the novel study," he said. "We always talk about narrative and narrative motion and narrative arcs. We're really bad at saying what it is we mean when we talk about that."

He said that while being absorbed by a page turner is typically taken for granted, the experience could be explained by the application of what he called metalanguages. He described metalanguages as a way to describe languages through lenses such as historical materialism, linguistics and psychoanalysis.

The metalanguage Victorian readers used, Rosenthal argued, were

moral in nature.

"The idea that they used to describe what it felt like to be pulled along, what it felt like to want to see things go into their proper state and not have to change anything more was moral in nature," he said. "It's the sense that things as are not as they should be, and you want to move through time to a future in which they are different. That's what we would call a moral experience."

Victorians were pulled by the narrative because they wanted to see an ending in which their ethical standards were met.

"The famous philosopher David Hume famously said in ethical discussion, one way or another you always move from an 'is' to an 'ought' what 'is' to what 'ought to be,'" Rosenthal said. "Narrative — the experience of narrative — is moving from 'that is' to that 'ought.'"

Rosenthal said that while Victorians may appear as irrelevant "moral upright prudes dressed in eight layers of black woollens even during the hottest months of the year," this caricaturing has been responsible for preventing us from valuing Victorians' understanding of the experience of novel reading.

"When you see Victorians talking about morals and books, they were actually saying a lot more about what novel reading felt like," he said.

He elaborated on his

argument by discussing ethical philosophy, and the disagreements between Intuitionists and Utilitarians. He acknowledged that Intuitionism "lost the philosophical battle" and that was problematic because it paved the way for people to form prejudices and to make discriminatory decisions based on their own personal morals. He argued that this trend persisted in the form of corrective narrative.

"I think it's one of the main things I'm interested in," he said. "How these ethical ideas live on in ways that we don't really realize in our sense of what a natural, well-developed, realist, satisfying story. Most readers don't have these terms at their fingertips. If you look at the history of how these things came to eclipse a lot of forms, we see that a lot of moral ideas get built into it."

He argued that ultimately Victorians may appear to have been moralizers, but in reality they were deeply interested in the form of narratives, more so than modern readers may realize.

"They were actually at the same time talking about the same ideas that literary critics now try to talk about when they look at form, when they look at how novels are put together, how they're structured — a lot of these seemingly stiff-necked moral arguments containing a lot of formal insights," Rosenthal said.

NEWS & FEATURES

B'More currency aims to generate local wealth



Courtesy of Amy Han. Carma's Cafe is one of the 230 businesses in Baltimore where people can use the local BNote currency.

By AMY HAN
Senior Staff Writer

The first Baltimore BNotes, a type of local Baltimore currency, were printed in 2011 by the Baltimore Green Currency Association (BGCA). Over 230 businesses now accept BNotes and seven of these businesses serve as designated money exchange locations where people can exchange 10 U.S. dollars for 11 BNotes.

There are currently over 45,000 dollars worth of BNotes in circulation.

Jeff Dicken, the director of the BGCA, explained that a local currency is a complementary currency introduced in a specific geographical area that aims to facilitate community commerce.

Dicken stressed that the BNote aims to keep more money within Baltimore communities by incentivizing spending at local businesses.

According to Dicken, local businesses on average spend three times as much in their local area. Dicken, along with other proponents of local currencies, argues that this can generate an accumulation of wealth over time.

"With most people using local currency as much as possible, the city would have enough wealth to fund rec-centers and local projects, without resorting to bond issues and borrowing from the large banks," Dicken wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "It is one tool that can lead to a more sustainable and less extractive economy in general."

Dicken explained that the idea of a local currency for Baltimore was originally conceived in 2009. He was first introduced to local currencies by a member of the Evolver Social Movement then.

The BGCA, a non-profit organization, was founded in 2010 to administer the BNote. Dicken, along with Evolver members and the directors of the BGCA,

pitched the idea to local businesses. Once enough business owners had agreed, BGCA launched an online fundraiser to finance printing the bills. Businesses that took part included cafes, hair salons and hardware stores, among others.

Since then, the BGCA has organized more online fundraisers, held an art auction and applied for grants from non-profits to help fund the currency.

Dicken explained some of the difficulties the Association faced in funding, promoting and sustaining the BNote project. He stressed the positive impact it can have on the community. "We face challenges in the areas of resident awareness, consistent resident use of BNotes once they are supportive, business retention (many small local businesses close within a few years), retention of volunteers, finding time to canvass for new business acquisition and persuading non-profits and other potential funders," he wrote.

Dicken wrote that during the first year, many of the planners used their own money to help fund promotional materials for BNotes. "Since then, aside from the printing costs, we have continued to operate on a very limited budget, but we find that our efforts on this project go very far in relation to the time and money we put into it, since the system has such positive dynamics by design," he wrote.

Olivier Jeanne, an economics professor at Hopkins and senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, questioned the realistic advantages a local currency would have in Baltimore.

Jeanne explained that local currencies can provide benefits when there is financial instability, like hyperinflation, since the local currency can be substituted for the official currency. He argued, however, that since this is currently not the case in the U.S., the potential benefits of BNotes remain ambiguous. "Unless these dollars are used in way that benefits the local community, it is not clear what is gained from using BNotes rather than dollars," Jeanne wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Dicken, on the other hand, emphasized that the BNote was designed to positively impact the community.

"It is one tool that can lead to a more sustainable and less extractive economy."

— JEFF DICKEN,
BGCA DIRECTOR

BNote was created to take back some of the power of our economy and have it work for residents, their communities and the City itself. It seemed like the most powerful thing we could do to even the economic playing field here in Baltimore," he wrote.

According to the BGCA's website, having a local currency is intended to create a "reservoir" of money circulating in the city that cannot flow out through national chains. BGCA argues that money leaves the city through national corporate chains to the benefit of their shareholders.

Even though the BNote gives buyers a boost in their purchasing power with participating businesses, the flipside is that if a business exchanges them for dollars, they will lose 10 percent of their revenue.

However, Dicken stressed that participating businesses have not incurred losses.

"The 10 percent they are giving up on that exchange generally amounts to a very small sum, and our efforts to help drive customers to local businesses through their inclusion in our directories, and our promotion of their specials on social media, more than make up in marketing for these

small costs they may incur," he wrote.

He further emphasized that BNotes were not designed to be exchanged back into the national currency, but rather meant to circulate within Baltimore and generate commerce between local businesses.

"Businesses who are accepting and then using BNotes for some of their own expenses with other merchants within the network are not experiencing any negative financial effects, as they come in like a dollar and then are spent like a dollar," he wrote.

Dicken also said that few businesses have exchanged their BNotes for dollars.

"That is the intent of the system — to keep them circulating as money and enabling all of the transactions that need to be done on a local level, even down to yard sales and babysitting," Dicken wrote.

He continued by highlighting how BNotes may inspire businesses to use more locally sourced supply chains.

"It may even inspire businesses to find local sources for products or services they are getting from outside our local economic ecosystem," he wrote.

Carma's Cafe, a favorite hangout and coffee shop for Hopkins students and local residents, supports the BNote.

Carma Halterman, the Cafe's owner, explained how her business uses BNotes.

"We have a small but loyal group of customers that shop with BNotes," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "The cafe spends our BNotes at other local businesses, such as Belle Hardware and occasionally buys services such as plumbing, painting, etc."

Before opening the Cafe, Halterman was on the board of Women Entrepreneurs of Baltimore and earned a graduate degree from New Hampshire College in Community Economic Development.

Dahlia Quinn, a Carma's employee, believes that using BNotes can positively serve the city.

"I think the BNote is a cool way to get people to support local businesses and buy local. I feel like it helps stimulate the local economy and encourage commerce within the city," Quinn said.

However, few Hopkins students know about BNotes, and there are no other businesses within Charles Village besides Carmas that currently accept BNotes.

Businesses nearby that accept the currency are clustered around Station North and Hampden. Carma's Cafe is listed as an exchange location, although it is currently "on hiatus" according to the BGCA's website.

The BGCA printed its second series last year. Dicken summarized the impact that the BNote has already made on the Baltimore community.

"It has inspired people to think about who they are supporting when they spend money each day," he wrote. "Do they want it to go to a corporate chain like Starbucks that will send it away from the city or a small local café that pays a better wage and treats its employees fairly?"

Students reflect on gap year experiences

By NEHAL AGGARWAL
For *The News-Letter*

Senior year is the time when many students ask themselves, "What do I want to do next?" Instead of immediately continuing on to the next stage of education, some students decide to plunge into the ambiguous world of "gap years."

Joining the army, traveling or gaining work experience are among the many options students can pursue before continuing their education.

Danielle Jacobson, a junior at Hopkins, completed her high school education in Cape Town, South Africa. She graduated high school in November, giving her almost a year before she started at Hopkins in the fall.

Jacobson divided her time between traveling, running a small jewelry company and taking classes for fun at a local college.

"I took care of the household and did all the cooking and cleaning and shopping, which helped me mature and grow my love for cooking and baking. I tried to learn as much as I could on my travels, as well as at home," Jacobson said. "I was learning and attending class because I wanted to, not because I had to, and I think there's a big difference in the mindset there."

Although Jacobson took her gap year after high school, many students also make this same decision after their senior year of college before applying to graduate programs.

The Office of Pre-Professional Advising defines a gap year as one or more years between graduation and when a student applies to medical or law school.

According to statistics from The Office of Pre-Professional Advising, the five-year average from 2011 to 2015 of students who take one or more gap years stood at 79.4 percent.

The number of students who decided not to take a gap year before pursuing a medical or legal education has declined since 2011.

However, the number of students who do take at least one gap year has been steadily increasing since 2011.

In 2015, 84.3 percent of students in the pre-professional track took one or more gap years.

Alexandra Capellini, a pre-med senior at Hopkins majoring in public health, hopes to be able to use her gap year to step outside academia and apply her knowledge to real-world situations.

"The last four years, I've been focused on my public health degree, on the pre-med requirements [and] gaining medical experience," Capellini said. "I want to focus on taking a step into the real world and see how I manage on

a day to day basis working at a job at an actual hospital and gain more people-to-people skills."

Class of 2014 graduate Becky Ward chose to pursue two gap years before she started medical school for similar reasons.

Ward said her gap years provided her with invaluable experiences outside of the classroom that ultimately got her accepted into her top choice medical school.

"I had only planned on taking one gap year, but my PI asked me to stay longer, so it wound up being two," Ward said. "I was able to get several publications out of my lab."

Anjani Kapadia, a senior at Hopkins majoring in public health and applying to medical school, hopes to use her gap year to spend time trying new activities.

"I wanted a period of time where the next step was not clearly laid out and was something very much out of my initiative," Kapadia said. "I think this is one of the last chances that I'll have a large chunk of time to do things like travel, spend time with my family or explore a new passion."

The pre-professional advising office specifically recommends students use their gap year to do something they are passionate about, or use the additional time to improve the quality of their applications for medical or law school.

Rachel Kassler, a senior at Hopkins majoring in International Studies, Spanish and Latin American studies, wanted to take a gap year to hike the Appalachian trail.

"I wanted to have the adventure and sense of huge accomplishment that the hike will give me, as well as using the time off to learn more about what exactly it is I want to do as a career," Kassler said.

Seth Hochberg, Class of 2015, found that his gap year helped him realize he no longer wanted the career path he had strived toward in his college career. He detailed the experience of his gap year in a Facebook status he wrote in February of 2016.

"College was a series of 'I can't wait until's.' I can't wait until I finish this assignment' 'I can't wait until my hell week is over.' 'I can't wait until finals are over,'" Hochberg wrote. "My life in college was going from completing one urgent task to another, and I am guilty, as I'm sure many of you are too, of postponing my happiness."

Hochberg used his gap year to focus on his personal growth.

"I've always been embarrassed how little I read, and now I've read 20 books in the last few months," he wrote. "I've achieved a completely newfound sense of balance in my life, which makes me incredibly happy."



Courtesy of Amy Han. Over 45,000 dollars worth of BNotes are currently in circulation in Baltimore city.

Errata: Mar. 2 Edition

In the Mar. 2 2017 of edition The News-Letter Victoria Baptiste was incorrectly identified as sitting on the board of the HeLa Genome Data Access Working Group.

In the same issue, the photo depicting Lawrence Lacks was wrongly credited to the Lacks Estate instead of Hope Lacks.

The News-Letter regrets these errors.

NEWS & FEATURES

Students criticize sexual assault module

MODULE, FROM A1
(in a section that references legal definitions) which currently defines rape in this way," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "However, the training module also references and links to federal law, as well as the Sexual Misconduct Policy & Procedures used for handling sexual misconduct matters at the University, both of which define sexual assault more broadly."

The University defines rape as "any act of sexual intercourse with another individual against a person's will or without consent, where sexual intercourse includes vaginal or anal penetration, however slight, with any body part or object, or oral penetration involving mouth to genital contact."

However, the State of Maryland's definition, which is cited in "Think About It," says that rape is "[engaging] in vaginal intercourse with another by force, or the threat of force, without the consent of the other."

Morgan Balster, a sophomore who took the course last year, disliked that the module conflated substance abuse and sexual assault.

"I thought that having [drugs and alcohol] and sexual assault in one training was distasteful and offensive," she said. "It implies that someone who has been on drugs or consumed alcohol is more likely to be sexually assaulted, which shifts the blame onto the victim, where it shouldn't be."

Gaslevic clarified the University's position on the relationship between sexual assault and drugs and alcohol.

"Consumption of alcohol and/or drugs does not ever lead to or cause sexual assault," she wrote. "While many campus assault cases involve consumption of alcohol and/or drugs, actions of a respondent — not alcohol or drug consumption — lead to sexual assault."

However, she emphasized that it's important to understand how substances can affect an individual's ability to give consent. Gaslevic also explained that many Hopkins sexual misconduct cases often involve alcohol.

"It is important — and part of legislative guidance and mandates — for a comprehensive prevention course to address the connections between alcohol and sexual consent, describe how alcohol can be used intentionally as a tool by potential perpetrators, and share risk-reduction strategies for all students," she wrote.

Balster also argued that the module portrayed hookup culture in a negative and condescending light.

"[Hookup culture] isn't a crime. Sexual assault is a crime," she said.

In response, Gaslevic stressed that neither the University nor the module intends to condemn hooking up outright.

"The decision to be sexually active is a highly personal decision and the module only seeks to pro-

vide information on this topic, not to judge and not to flag it as a particular issue at our institution," she wrote.

While taking the module students are prompted to answer highly personal survey questions like "How many times have you had sex (including oral) in the last three months?" Even though the module says the responses are anonymous, some students questioned this since

"[Hookup culture] isn't a crime. Sexual assault is a crime."

— MORGAN BALSTER, SOPHOMORE

they are required to log in with their student ID.

But according to Gaslevic, responses are aggregated and de-identified and cannot be linked to individual students. She also noted that survey questions can be answered with the "No Comment" option.

Other students expressed concern that the module could trigger survivors of sexual violence because it does not provide a clear way to opt out.

Although senior Max Balka does not personally think that trigger or content warnings are necessary, he stressed that many students satulchly support using them. He said that the University should not make the module mandatory for those who may be triggered by its content.

"This module... forces all students — including victims of traumatic experiences such as rape or molestation — to continue actively engaging with the triggering content in order to graduate," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Gaslevic said that if

a student felt triggered by content in the course, they should contact her or the OIE.

"If someone is triggered or expects to be triggered due to past assault, they should email me and request an exception to the training," she said. "I'm open to considering an exemption."

Balka, echoing a common complaint, questioned why upperclassmen need to complete the training, especially seniors who are graduating within a few months.

"I was frustrated at the very fact that a previously undisclosed de facto graduation requirement was tossed onto the laps of the Class of 2017 during our final weeks as undergraduates," he wrote. "This module is not designed for graduating 22 year olds."

Gaslevic explained that the University believes it is essential for all students to be uniformly trained on the topic of sexual violence.

"Sexual violence can impact any student, regardless of their identity and their undergraduate year at the University," she wrote.

Though Villegas, the junior, disagreed with aspects of the module, she thought that its use of statistics was beneficial. For example, she appreciated how the module addressed the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships. She also appreciated the segments detailing how alcohol differently affects men, women and people of varying body types.

"I think that information is really important because a lot of students come here either never having anything [to drink] or being completely unaware of it," she said.

Villegas also sees po-

tential for the module to be a convenient and useful way to educate students about sexual assault.

"I think [online training] could be effective if it were more sensitive and more careful about what it talked about," she said.

Sophomore AJ Tsang recognized some of the module's positive qualities and praised the University's goal of educating students about sexual assault. However, he took issue with the definition of rape the module adopted and felt that the interactive graphics created an optimistic tone that was not appropriate for discussing sexual violence.

"In spite of the problems with [the module] — in terms of wording — when I factor in the intention of it and that it was [required], the net impact is positive," he said.

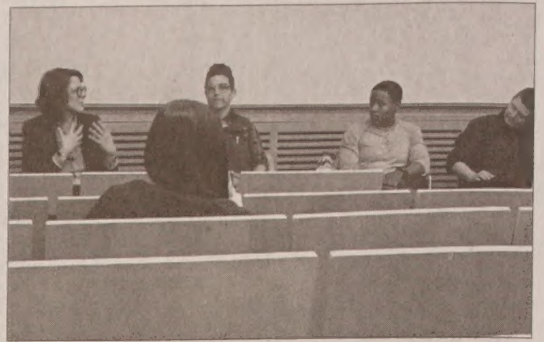
Tsang also noted that the University's approach to handling sexual assault cases has improved.

"When we look back on... how much progress we've made in this era compared to 10 to 15 years ago when there were obvious cover-ups of sexual assaults and rapes on campus, I think it shows that through sustained pressure and sustained student advocacy we can really effect great change," he said.

Gaslevic encourages students to share their feedback, especially since EverFi is working on updating the course this year. Input from Hopkins students would be taken into consideration.

"We welcome any interested students, including individuals who have expressed concerns about the training, to contact OIE should they wish to participate in future EverFi focus groups," she wrote.

Panelists explore masculine identity



COURTESY OF EDA INCEKARA

Panelists discussed their experiences asserting privileged masculinity.

By KAREN SHENG
Staff Writer

The Office of LGBTQ Life and the Office of Gender Equity (OGE) hosted a panel discussion in Gilman on the performance of masculine and feminine identities, experiences within queer and non-queer spaces and gender stereotypes. The discussion, which took place on March 6, was the sixth event in a series planned by the OGE for Women's History Month.

Panelists included sophomore Sandhya Ramachandran; Erin Gleeson, the project and events specialist in the Office of Institutional Equity; Abby Neyenhouse, assistant director for the Center for Social Concern; Sabrina Scarborough, a campus operations manager at the Hopkins School of Education; and Baltimore residents Nadia Humphries and Elliot Mitens Cooperson.

A major theme of the discussion was how some women display privileged masculine identities to assert themselves in positions of authority. Gleeson, who has a non-binary gender identity, said that they have used their masculine traits to their advantage while at work.

"I've been in work situations with a bunch of dudes, and I've definitely tapped into my more toxic masculine persona," Gleeson said. "And by adopting that persona, it's like, 'Oh, okay, they respect me now.' Whereas if I was more collaborative, maybe, or dressed differently, I know that I wouldn't get that sort of respect from men. I kind of used that in those situations to my advantage."

Neyenhouse, the panel moderator, agreed with Gleeson about how identity can be adapted for different environments.

"I think that clinically, women are taught to not take up space. For me, I want to take up space all the time," she said. "But I think I get more careful of that when I'm at work because I have an almost all-female staff, and so [I think about] where am I taking up too much space, or where am I silencing my coworkers, or where I am bringing stereotypical male ways of behaving."

She emphasized that how she feels about her identity and how she is asserting it differ based on where she is, whether that space be more conservative or more liberal.

"If I'm out in Western Maryland, I'm suddenly fearful of the space that I take up. Especially now in this current election, it's like I'm much more fearful of my identity in certain spaces than I was under Obama," she said. "It's like, can I go to this bathroom, will I make it back out safely?"

Ramachandran, who identifies as agender, has

also experienced masculine privilege within a family setting due to cultural expectations and stereotypes.

"Something that I've noticed is that because I'm in engineering — which is masculine, right — they take me a lot more seriously than for example, my mom, who didn't do a math-y degree," Ramachandran said. "And I guess within Indian culture there's a little bit of a joke about the divide, that women become engineers and men become doctors. So they one hundred percent take my opinions on everything more seriously because I'm an engineer."

The panelists were asked how they use masculine energy to amplify the female voices around them.

Scarborough, who has managed Safe Zone training and held transgender awareness training at the University, said that the patriarchy has taught her to be more self-aware.

"I have to check myself. I recognize the patriarchy and misogyny," Scarborough said. "So if I go to open a door for someone, am I opening the door because this is a girl and I'm trying to be the man? But no, I don't, I open the door because I'm a nice person and I hold the door open for the person behind me and it doesn't matter if it's a woman or a man."

Sophomore Osiris Mancera, the undergraduate intern for the Office of LGBTQ Life, explained why the panel discussion format differs from previous events put on by the OGE and LGBTQ Life.

"The reason for structuring it as a panel discussion was that... we've had discussions before, but it had mostly been one person talking at people," Mancera said. "So it was just like 'Oh, I wonder what it would be like to have multiple people give perspectives, different areas of expertise, talking about a particular topic.'"

Even though turnout for the event was fairly low, with an audience of six people, Mancera thinks that it was an effective way to spark more conversation about how women can perform more masculine identities.

Director of Gender Equity Jeannine Heynes believes that the discussion was special in that it provided a safe, welcoming environment for people to talk about non-traditional gender identities.

"It can be rare to find spaces in which people have the opportunity to talk about performing masculinity as androgynous, a non-binary individual, or as a woman," Heynes wrote. "Hosting this event allowed anyone who attended to listen and learn from the panelists just how diverse, unique and empowering gender identity can be."

Shriver to undergo construction



COURTESY OF SAMANTHA SETO

Student groups, such as MSE and other arts groups, will have to find alternative venues for their events.

SHRIVER, FROM A1
that, but that comes with its own set of scheduling difficulties."

Homewood Student Affairs is willing to work with student groups to find new locations for their events. According to Assistant Director of Scheduling and Event Services Reginald Anthony, the office notified groups who would most frequently use Shriver Hall, like the Alumni Association and the Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium (MSE), as soon as they were made aware of the renovation plans.

But Anthony explained that it is ultimately up to the student groups in charge of the events to find relocation

spaces.

Rachel Biderman, one of MSE's two programming chairs, said that they are aware of the renovations and have been communicating with the administration.

"The Symposium will still go on in the fall. At this time we're coordinating and cooperating with the administration and campus officials to explore other options," Biderman said. "We don't have an official announcement at this time."

The Ladybirds, a dance group on campus, were notified in an email sent on Feb. 17 by Eric Beatty, the Homewood arts director. Beatty told Senior Maddie Mitchell,

the president of the Ladybirds, that the annual O Show would now take place a week earlier than usual to accommodate the September closure.

"I support any renovations that will enhance Shriver, but I'm not quite sure what these particular renovations are supposed to accomplish," Mitchell wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "This might be because the school hasn't been very transparent about them, however. As of now, the Ladybirds are not sure where we'll be holding our performances, but there are a number of other good theater spaces on campus, so hopefully we (and other dance groups) can make use of those."

NEWS & FEATURES

MEDPanel advocates for ethics in medicine

By **ALYSSA WOODEN**
Staff Writer

Partnering with the Berman Institute of Bioethics, the Hopkins MED-Panel hosted a roundtable discussion on Saturday, March 4, on the topic of genetic modification. The event opened with a presentation by Jeffrey Kahn, followed by a small group discussion between students and Berman Institute representatives and ended with a talk by Travis Rieder.

Kahn, the director of the Berman Institute, spoke about his position on a National Academy of Sciences committee in charge of assessing the ethics of genome editing. He discussed the current ethical and legal issues of human genetic modification, particularly in regard to recent developments in CRISPR technologies.

"It's a very precise way of editing any kind of genome. It doesn't have to be human, it can be in anything that's got DNA," Kahn said. "It's so far the most precise, easy to use, cheap tool there is to edit genomes."

Kahn's committee is responsible for making recommendations to govern these technologies.

"We were asked... to identify some principles to guide the way this work should be overseen," he said. "These [principles] should be the... foundation on which regulatory processes should be built."

Kahn explained that several layers of regulatory oversight are already in place to oversee both cellular genetic modification. He noted that while gene therapy for the purpose of treating diseases is generally accepted, genetic enhancement is still somewhat of a gray area.

"The line between treatment or prevention and enhancement is not clear. And that's been an area that many people have worked on for many years without there being an agreed consensus," he said.

Kahn also stressed that the focus of his committee was not whether genetic enhancements are morally wrong, but whether the potential benefits of the technology outweigh the risks. He said that the question of morality can only be answered with extensive public input.

In the question and answer session following the presentation, Kahn said that gene editing to treat hereditary diseases should only be used if the disease is guaranteed to be passed down to the patient's children.

Although Kahn's committee does not endorse germline editing in any situation, they take it into consideration because of significant public desire for biological children.

"Humans have spoken," Kahn said. "There's a lot of money spent and a lot of energy spent and a lot of angst experienced for people to have genetically related children."

Despite the recommendations made by the committee so far, Kahn noted

that the conversation about genetic modification is far from over and that further recommendations will be discussed in future international summits.

"This is supposed to be an ongoing global, international, transnational discussion," he said. "This is the beginning, not the end."

Kahn's presentation was followed by smaller discussions between Hopkins students and Berman Institute students and faculty. Groups reviewed Kahn's talk and further debated the issue. Cameron Okeke, a second-year Master's in Bioethics student at Berman, brought up the importance of ethics in the biological and health sciences.

"The mistake that people often make is they think that facts and science and research alone... can change the world, but in fact it's actually arguments and reason, and more importantly ethics," Okeke said.

"If there doesn't seem to be anything bad about [a technology]... then it seems like a policy we should do. But if there are significant dangers... the effect that could have, both on the environment but also socially, could be catastrophic."

Rieder, assistant director for education initiatives at Berman, delivered the closing statements. "There's a bunch of conversations to be had [that aren't] about a particular charge that the national academies might have," Rieder said. "Those are broader philosophical questions... also broader religious or spiritual sorts of questions."

While the National Academy of Sciences is only concerned with the risks involved in genetic modification, it will remain largely up to the general public to decide whether it is morally acceptable, which may determine regulatory policy. One aspect of this moral dilemma is the paradox of harm.

MEDPanel member Donghyun Kim expressed his satisfaction with the event and hopes of continuing to collaborate with the Berman Institute in the future.

"We were lucky enough because they actually reached out to us first last year, and we couldn't really set up anything immediately, but we talked and threw ideas around and we thought this was a pretty good event to have," Kim said.

Kim believes that overall the event went well and he hopes that it will help continue the conversation about ethics in medicine.

"I think a lot of people [found the talk interesting], because a lot of people stayed behind, and hopefully this got a lot of people interested in medical ethics and bioethics," he said. "It's a new light to have experts come in and engage with us instead of students just talking with each other."

Chopra discusses government in digital era

CHOPRA, FROM A1

Chopra noted that despite constant technological advancements, most people are cynical about the government's ability to solve problems.

"The reality is, faith in government has gone down since the Eisenhower administration," he said. "We had a bit of a spike after... 9/11, but for the most part we've got an environment where people are less confident that the public sector is going to help them in their daily lives."

Chopra explained that although America is often viewed as a nation in a perpetual state of progress, the reality now is that older generations believe that the U.S. was better off in the past. However, he remained positive that things would improve.

"This internet economy we have is making our personal lives so much richer, connecting us to so many people, enriching our lives. But then there's this big divide about what this might mean for the public sector," he said. "I find that we're in the most entrepreneurial period of problem solving."

He stated that despite the current tumultuous state of domestic and international politics, he was confident that the situation would improve.

Chopra is hopeful that people who understand the power of the internet will restore the U.S. to a state in which the public has faith in their government.

He cited his experience with the Obama administration as proof. As CTO, his goal was to modernize the way services are delivered by bringing new technologies into the public sector.

He described how other companies like Procter & Gamble and Facebook, which have succeeded in harnessing the enormous power of technology, have succeeded.

"This is about culture, mindset. A belief system that ideas everywhere can inform and advance a mission objective that is critical to your goals," he said. "So in that sense, culture change and open platforms became two critical ingredients in our overall strategy."

The power of the internet, Chopra explained, is something that both Republicans and Demo-

crats can support in the hopes of making the U.S. better. He believes that in order to accomplish this, the government needs to make open data the new default, so that public sector leadership can take full advantage of it.

"We need... the ability to connect government with entrepreneurship and innovators who can take that information, take those resources, and build the products and services that actually will help us lead better lives," Chopra said.

Adopting a more open data philosophy and making data more public could have enormous economic benefits as well, according to Chopra.

"Researchers have found that if we figured out all the talent that's in our country and around the world and we find the ideal match for that talent... we can boost the global GDP by \$2.7 trillion," Chopra said. "Publishing information on which particular areas are in demand will let people know exactly what gaps need to be filled when they begin career training or a job search."

Chopra ended his talk by reaffirming his confidence that the situation would continue to improve along with the advancement of modern technology.

"This is the future that I believe is coming if we find ways to harness all of this power and potential of the internet to solve problems," he said.

One of FAS' three executive co-directors, junior Tim Shieh, explained how Chopra's area of expertise fits in with the Symposium's theme, "Undercurrent."

"This is a great example of how the intersection of technology and government and politics all bring about understandings of the world that are more relevant," Shieh said. "In a world



KAREEM OSMAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Chopra emphasized the need for the private sector to work with the public sector.

where the internet is everywhere while there are massive challenges like healthcare and information access, we thought that this would be the perfect person to talk about these kinds of issues."

Overall, Shieh believed that Chopra's talk was successful.

"We really hope that students and community members who came out could actually get firsthand experience from the account of someone who's worked in the administration and also has some experience in the private sector," he said.

Shieh believes that Chopra's technological expertise made him a valuable speaker.

"He was very energetic on an issue that might not be so interesting to a random person," Shieh said. "He was really able to talk about data and government in a way that was different."

Freshman Divya Baron commended Chopra for his innovative strategies in working to unite the public and private sectors to affect technological change and make the system more efficient.

"I was most impressed by the ability of the government to work with the private sector in order to improve the lives of people who will probably never even know that the government was involved in the technology or data that they're using," she said.

Baron related in her own words what she believed was Chopra's main argument.

"From what I understood of Chopra's talk what he said was that he would prefer to build the

systems first and then trust in the public to use and appreciate this technology, with his main focus being on building the systems first rather than asking for the public's trust and then building the system," she said.

Junior Jake Kim enjoyed how Chopra dispelled myths about the government and bureaucratic methods of instigating change.

"It was interesting that according to him, the public sector used to be the bastion of creativity and productivity," Kim said. "I thought the government gets a bad rap with bureaucracy and is generally considered slower than the private sector, which is more true these days, but it was interesting to learn that's not quite the case."

Kim connected his own experiences as an engineer with Chopra's focus on open data.

"I thought the initiative of open-sourcing information across all agencies was great," he said. "As an engineer I believe that if anything is going to be the conduit of change between policy to real lives, it is going to be technology."

Kim then stressed the importance and relevance of Chopra's talk in light of the current political climate.

"Infusion of talent and productivity into the public sector are even more relevant today given the recent changes in leadership," he said. "But I think it's important to note that that doesn't reverse all advances we've made, and it's ever more important for us to stay engaged in these dialogues."

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NEWS & FEATURES

New cafe hires people on autism spectrum



COURTESY OF KAREN WANG
Sam's Cafe opened at the corner of W. 39th and Canterbury Road.

SAM'S CAFE, FROM A1 require job coaches, which is what Itineris provides," she said. "Others are completely independent; [They] don't need a job coach. There's that wide spectrum of language and verbal and physical skills, [so] it's often hard for adults on the spectrum to find employment."

Straus further explained the specificity required to teach employees on the spectrum about the work environment and how this differed from instructing the average worker.

"With adults on the spectrum, your language has to be very specific as to what you are referring to or asking them to do. We have trained our staff [not on the spectrum and] we had a presentation from Itineris to help them understand how to interact [with spectrum adults]," Straus said.

Straus said not all businesses may be equipped with the resources necessary to train workers on the spectrum.

"You have to be very specific on what you're asking them to do and demonstrating [the task] very carefully, [otherwise] it wouldn't really mean anything to anyone on the autistic spectrum," she said. "We'll break [jobs] down into very identifiable processes for each step and even put together a series of pictures or a manual. Some employers don't have the time or the resources to do that."

Straus stated that the cafe has helped build meaningful employee-guest relationships, as well.

"We've had quite a few [diners] that have already met Sam, and that interaction on the whole is more intimate than an interaction between a more run-of-the-mill food service person and a guest," Straus said. "It's really no longer about what food they're serving you, or what drink they're serving, you are interacting with them personally at that point and that's what makes it so special to witness."

She also spoke about how some of the other workers overcame their own prejudices after getting to know their co-workers on the spectrum.

"There was perhaps some apprehension in our team about what bringing in adults on the spectrum meant, but now that I think that they've had the opportunity to interact with Sam for a couple of weeks, they understand what it's like," Straus said.

Straus also believes the experience has been rewarding to all of the cafe's employees, including herself.

"It has been truly honoring and very rewarding to have come into a space that was very different and have the honor of renovating it and turning it into something that is more suitable adults on the spectrum," she said.

Looking forward,

Straus hopes to expand the cafe's reach and show that it is possible to employ adults on the spectrum. She also emphasized that these adults have skills and capabilities that are often overlooked.

"We really want to be a place that can offer meaningful employment to adults on the spectrum for as long as we can," Straus said. "There are things in every job environment that are somewhat repetitive but not menial, that offer someone dignity and meaningful employment, and it's just a matter of identifying those tasks and offering them to [people] with whatever specialty. It's just a matter of finding that perfect match."

Senior Jennifer Baik praised the cafe's purpose.

"In terms of Sam's Cafe and their mission, I think it's a really good idea. They are providing a really good space for people who are unfairly prejudiced against to find employment," Baik said. "I think that there need to be more spaces like that."

While Baik noted that the food could improve over time, she will return to support the cafe's mission.

"They might need some more time to settle into that," she said. "Because I'm aware of what it does, I'll probably support it a lot more with my business."

Students march for International Women's Day

By PETER JI
Senior Staff Writer

A group of roughly 30 Hopkins graduate and undergraduate students gathered at the top of the Beach and walked to People's Park at 2011 N. Charles Street to join a larger protest march to mark International Women's Day in Baltimore on Wednesday afternoon.

The organizers of the Jan. 21 Women's March on Washington branded the day as "A Day without a Woman," encouraging women to walk away from work for a day and not spend money to highlight their influence on the economy as a form of protest.

Participants in the Baltimore march walked to the Women's Detention Center and to Douglas Homes. The march destinations highlighted the need for reduced incarceration rates and better housing for women.

The rally was sponsored by Hopkins Feminists, Hopkins for the Homeless, Hopkins College Democrats, Voice for Choice, Hopkins Progressives, Students for a Democratic Society and Teachers and Researchers United (TRU).

Two organization representatives briefly spoke about the aims for the march.

Sociology graduate student Sam Agarwal from TRU praised the thousands of women's marches that have taken place throughout history.

"There is a long history of women participating in International Working Women's Day," Agarwal said. "20,000 workers walked out of work and for 14 weeks they brought production down. They struck for better pay, better working conditions and better rights. Let's embrace workers' struggles happening on the Hopkins campus today."

She cited the lack of maternity leave options available for graduate

students as an area of concern.

"One of the issues is that graduate students don't have a concerted policy for leave. Some have to come back to work after birth," Agarwal said. "I want to emphasize that this is a protest about gender struggle and worker's rights."

Professor in the Department for German and Romance Languages and Literatures Derek Schilling from the Hopkins chapter of American Association of University Professors (AAUP) spoke about the wage gap facing women workers.

Schilling also brought a mop and a bucket filled with pennies to represent women's lost wages due to pay inequality.

He spoke about his passion for academic freedom, saying that universities should allow professors to express their social and political views more freely.

Schilling believes this right is restricted in order to avoid misrepresenting a university's stance. He also wants to fix gender wage gaps for faculty.

"Think of all the pennies lost over the years," Chilling said. "For the next four years, we're going to be washing crud off of the walls. Let your law makers know about your concerns."

Protesters also waved signs which read, "We are in solidarity," "No justice no peace," "No human is illegal" and "Kickin' ass for the working

class."

As participants began to walk south towards the main protest at People's Park, they chanted their disapproval of President Donald Trump: "Hey-hey, ho-ho, Donald Trump has got to go!"

Caroline Cevallos, a member of the Yesplus Club, which works to enhance leadership and social engagement, participated in the march and explained the event's significance to their group specifically.

"We're from the Yesplus Club, and we care a lot about women underrepresented in STEM, rights for women in the workplace," she said.

Cevallos believes Trump's presidency has catalyzed an increase in liberal activism, but that the issues they sought to address are not new.

"These events are a long time coming," she said.

Agarwal pointed out that men were welcome to speak on behalf of women's rights, even though most of the participants were women.

OXIDE Research and Program Manager Dantarie Stallings said he participated in the march to support the women who supported him throughout his life.

"I came to the march

because everyone should be a feminist," Stallings said. "Every man has mothers and wives and sisters and they should want the people they love to have the same opportunities for excellence as they have," he said.

Srikant Iyer, an associate research scientist in chemistry, spoke about how this was his first march.

"I'm absolutely in support of women's equality, and from an educator's point of view, I think that women have so much to offer to push the way humanity thinks, the direction of science, social science and improving lives," he said.

The first International Women's Day observance was held on March 8, 1914, but Women's Day has a long history before then, with marches taking place on various dates.

Most of the protests in the U.S. and Europe were for women's suffrage and better working conditions, and protests in Russia had larger political motivations such as the end of World War I.

Initially started by socialist organizations, it was recognized by the U.N. in 1975. This year, it branded the day as "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030."



COURTESY OF SAMANTHA SETO
Hopkins students marched for gender equality as a part of International Women's Day.

SGA seeks to increase school spirit during Homecoming

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) discussed ways to promote inclusivity and tradition on campus at its weekly meeting on Tuesday, March 7. These methods included increasing funding for the Intercultural Greek Council (IGC) and BlueJays Fly.

The IGC is the governing body that represents eight historically culturally-based fraternities and sororities on campus, and they are looking to start an annual barbecue on Alumni Weekend. According to IGC president, junior Tatiana Sorenson, the IGC is the largest bi-organizational council on campus and yet receives the least funding.

Sorenson explained the goals of the barbecue in bringing together the Hopkins community.

"Hopkins has had groups that would have been considered part of the IGC since the 1970s," Sorenson said. "But we've never been able to provide any kind of community for our alumni."

Junior Class Senator Kwame Alston supported the bill, explaining that it would promote diversity

on campus.

"This event is really to foster some more diverse spaces," Alston said. "We're really trying to get back to that vibe that we used to have of creating a space with all of these alumni that we all, as freshmen coming in as students of color, looked up to knowing that this is where I can achieve."

Junior Class Senator Pepe Muniz had some initial concerns about how the event would be marketed and whether it would be accessible to students outside of the IGC.

However, after discussing the merits of the bill, Muniz supported increasing the proposed funding to more than \$500, making it a more large-scale event.

"Given that it does go along with our initiatives so well, I feel like we could give more than \$500 and make this bigger," Muniz said. "If we could be a little more ambitious, I don't think it wouldn't

be illogical for me to say that we pass this first and then they adapt and make the event bigger so that it's even more inclusive and reaches even more students."

Alston also explained the reasons why the IGC deserved more funding from SGA.

"We hold a very special place in multicultural

"It should be the SGA's job... to help with the cultivation of inclusive spaces."

— KWAME ALSTON, JUNIOR CLASS SENATOR

student life and we're reaching out to the SGA because, as a representation of the student body, it should be the SGA's job also to help with the cultivation of these inclusive spaces," he said.

Freshman Class President Anthony Boutros, however, expressed some concern about increasing the funding without first budgeting the additional money.

"If we're going to pass it now with \$500, I'm completely comfortable doing that," Boutros said. "But if we're going to add more, I would like to see where this money is going, why

you think you can draw more people than you initially expected, etc."

Ultimately Muniz, who supported the addition, tabled the discussion. The topic would be discussed again when a new budget was drawn up to account for the potential increased funding.

The BlueJays Fly bill, presented by Freshman Class Senator Rushabh Doshi, is a proposed new homecoming tradition to increase school spirit. According to the bill, spectators would throw paper airplanes from the stands during the Homecoming game.

Doshi said this bill aims to increase school spirit by creating a new tradition, which is one of SGA's main initiatives for this year.

"Students have long wanted a tradition that they can participate in," Doshi said. "Universities all over the world have traditions that students are proud of... We've addressed health and diversity issues, but spirit is not something that we've addressed as much."

Doshi said that the bill would require minimal funding from the SGA. The funding would be just enough to cover the cost

of the paper, which would be recycled. He also said that the athletics department was excited to make this tradition a reality at homecoming games.

"Imagine thousands of Hopkins students throwing a paper airplane to symbolize that we, as Blue Jays, fly together," Doshi said.

SGA members supported the bill, and Doshi readily answered any concerns his fellows brought up.

Doshi answered questions from the SGA about the logistics behind the idea, including who would pick up the paper, whether it would be recycled and whether SGA would be accountable for funding the tradition in subsequent years.

Doshi said that if the event became successful, the athletics department would take charge of organizing. The bill passed unanimously.

In addition to these initiatives, SGA discussed election campaign reforms that primarily addressed the changing use of social media in campaigning. Upcoming matters for discussion include potential SGA committee structure reforms and programming for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April.

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VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

To everyone who has questioned my tattoo



Alyssa Remshak
Guest Columnist

I don't remember exactly when I decided that, when I was old enough, I was going to get a tattoo. I do remember many people who rolled their eyes, told me I would someday regret it and felt that the few years they had on me entitled them to tell me what I should and should not do to my own body.

As much as I wanted to go get one on my 18th birthday, I waited, for fear of the backlash I knew I was going to get. But last month, I went to a little shop in Hampden and, with my big holding my hand, finally got a tattoo. While I could not be happier about it, I know that, for various reasons, many people seem to think tattoos are some kind of abomination.

So to everyone who sees ink as a mistake, here are the answers to the questions I know you'd love to ask:

Aren't you afraid you'll never get a job?

Nope. I'm getting my education from one of the world's best universities, and I've gotten stellar grades, made meaningful connections and taken advantage of loads of leadership opportunities. In a society that's becoming more and more accepting, more people than you'd think actually believe that all of this makes me more qualified for a job than someone less experienced and educated who doesn't have ink on their arm. Even if this isn't the case, long sleeves and makeup specially designed to cover tattoos both exist. So I'm not concerned.

Why would you want an insect on your body for the rest of your life?

I did not just arbitrarily pick a design off the internet. I actually put a lot of thought into what I wanted and the reasoning behind it.

I chose to get a dragonfly when I was 16 and read that they only have 24 hours to live once they reach adulthood (it was initially supposed to be about making every second count). However, a couple years later, I read something contradictory. Turns out, dragonflies really live about 6-9 months. So then my tattoo became about living beyond expectations for myself. That, along with the message of the semicolon (the dragonfly is a semicolon with wings), is a reminder of how far I've come and that I am stronger than the mental illness I've dealt with since high school.

Do you really want a dark, permanent, physical reminder of that for you and the rest of the world to see?

Believe me, it is not helpful or plausible to try to forget about mental health issues. While I've spent years learning how to deal with it, it's not like you spend a little while seeing a counselor or take some pills and everything goes away. My mental illness is as permanent as my tattoo, and I refuse to be ashamed of it any longer.

I will always have days when I struggle to get out of bed, when I feel empty, when my thoughts get out of control and go someplace that makes most who have never had to deal with the same sort of thing uncomfortable. My tattoo is a permanent reminder to fight it.

To everyone who sees ink as a mistake, here are the answers to the questions I know you'd love to ask.

What if you change your mind when you're older?

You could literally ask that about any decision anyone ever

makes. What if that wall color goes out of fashion 10 years from now? What if the market crashes and you lose money on the house? What if one day you decide you no longer want to be married to your husband?

As with any big decision, I put a lot of thought into getting my tattoo (yes, including that I will someday have wrinkles), and it is not something I can ever see myself regretting. If that changes, I will deal with it when it happens.

So to everyone out there who has questioned this decision. I hope that this answers some of your questions.



Morgan Ome & Audrey Holt
Couch Conversations

Hello and welcome to the couch!

Morgan: Audrey, I had a *Ratatouille* moment the other day.

Audrey: Nice! I've never seen *Ratatouille*, so you're going to have to elaborate.

M: Okay. There's a scene in the movie where Ego, this hostile food critic, takes a bite of ratatouille and is instantly transported back to a childhood memory. Yesterday, I had a similar experience when I ordered the chicken curry at Bamboo Café.

It reminded me of my grandmother's curry, though it wasn't nearly as good. When I was a kid, I'd spend weekends at my grandmother's house. She'd often have a huge pot of chicken curry cooking on the stove when I arrived. The sauce was silky, savory and a little sweet.

She would throw in carrots, potatoes, celery and boiled eggs. It was a simple but hearty meal. We'd eat bowls of curry and rice and talk about my week. Those weekends were some of the best parts of my childhood.

A: Yum, sounds delicious. I don't have anything quite that meaningful, but the smell of chicken and mushrooms cooking in marsala wine takes me back to my childhood kitchen faster than you can say "wine makes everything better."

M: I need to look up

a recipe for that marsala chicken! I think it's so interesting how food can be so evocative.

A: It is, not to be obvious, a big part of life. Then again, there are relatively few magazines dedicated to breathing and "The Seven Best Types of Air to Serve Your Friends." Okay, yes, I confess to being facetious, but the fact remains that "we need it to survive" isn't sufficient explanation for the recent proliferation of food magazines.

Let's take stock, shall we: *Bon Appétit* has been around in some form or another since 1956, *Food & Wine* since 1978, *Saveur* since 1994. Then there are the lighter fare features: *EatingWell*, *Cooking Light* and *Clean Eating*. (All very well and good, but this is a short column: Skip salad and get to the real food first.)

M: There are so many ways to engage with food writing. There are hard-copy magazines like the ones you just mentioned and there are also food blogs and websites.

A: Definitely, but the hard-copy mags have a special place in my heart. Think about getting your hands on the beautifully alluring, color-filled pages of *Lucky Peach*, *Kinfolk*, *Gather Journal*, *Spoonful: A Guide to Home Gatherings* or *Milk Street*. There's something so satisfying about opening one of these under the Plexiglas of your cookbook stand.

T a k e G a t h e r : It's darker

than most of the magazines, with more of an early-'90s *Bon Appétit* vibe but significantly more daring. One of the shots in their winter issue has a pointed-toe pump stepping on an entrée. The backdrops are near-black walls and white marble countertops, so the roasted red of the peppers pops against the alienness of a kitchen too "on-trend" for most of us. It's the museum of magazines.

Spoonful, on the other hand is the most cheerful (and also the most expensive). It's \$25 an issue at the newsstand, so I don't do enough entertaining to justify buying this "Guide to Home Gatherings," but the next-level food porn makes it difficult to resist. From instructions for throwing fundraising dinner parties to something called "The Blessed Thistle Cocktail," an issue of *Spoonful* would make even the most inept host look suave and, dare I say it, adult.

My go-to food mag is now *Milk Street*, Chris Kimball's most recent brainchild. Although it's a lot smaller than most of the newer crowd, it's just as meaty, and it's only around \$7, so fair enough.

M: I love when I can

get my hands on print magazines like the ones you just talked about. But as you know, they can be a little pricey, so I consume a lot of food writing via the internet. I have a few that I read regularly.

NPR's food blog "The Salt" delves into the history and science behind the food we eat today. I just read a weirdly fascinating piece where three NPR correspondents tested out a Reddit claim that oranges taste better in the shower. That's some real investigative journalism there.

Then there's the *New York Times* Food Section, which is chock full of recipes, contemplative articles and food related news. This section is to die for. The photos are so crisp and there are often handy tips and tricks for making things like the perfect pie crust. Just simple, solid advice and well-written pieces.

Beyond just salivating over pretty pictures and descriptions, I like reading about food because it prompts me to appreciate what I eat. It's hard to remember to savor ingredients and flavors when you're wolfing down meals between classes.

Yet, through writing and reading about it, we're able to slow down and really think about what food means.



JESSICA SPENGLER/CC BY 2.0

Morgan and Audrey explore why we are so obsessed with food and food publications.

Why you should give Posner's music an honest chance



Hayley Bronner
Rising Ambitions

If we're being honest, how many times have you heard "I Took a Pill in Ibiza" on the radio since last summer? The answer is a lot. Too many, really. But even if everybody we see knows that song backward and forward, Mike Posner is not going anywhere, and there is still much more to come from him.

The 29 year old was born and raised near Detroit, Michigan. After graduating high school, Posner chose to attend Duke, but during his first few semesters, he quickly got into record producing. He started making tracks with Big Sean, a hometown friend, and was featured on Big Sean's first mixtape. When Posner start-

ed making his own mixtapes, people were quick to notice. After his junior year at Duke, he signed a record deal with J Records. Instead of taking a leave of absence, he attended classes during the week and toured and recorded new songs for his debut album on the weekends.

Who has time to create a hit album while still actually going to class? Was he excused from papers and exams for recording studio time or did he just magically do it all in his "free time"?

After working on his second album, Posner took a break from the spotlight, writing and producing for other artists instead. But in the summer of 2013 he made his comeback and has not stopped since. The song we all know, "I Took a Pill in Ibiza," was first released on Vevo on April 15, 2015, but the remix by Seeb, which is most likely the version that you have secretly sung to alone in your car, came later on.

The latest of Mike Posner's songs to be re-

mixed is "In The Arms Of A Stranger," remixed by musical duo Grey. It is one of the best songs that I've heard in a long time and a great remix. "In The Arms Of A Stranger" is off of Posner's 2016 album *At Night, Alone*, but the Grey remix is hot off of the presses.

Grey is an American electronic music duo from Los Angeles, who has remixed songs such as "Starving" by Hailee Steinfeld, "Same Old Love" by Selena Gomez and "Beautiful Now" by Zedd. Brothers Kyle and Michael Trewartha remix Posner's delicate melody into a dramatic and fast-moving song.

Both the remix and the original are amazing and fit

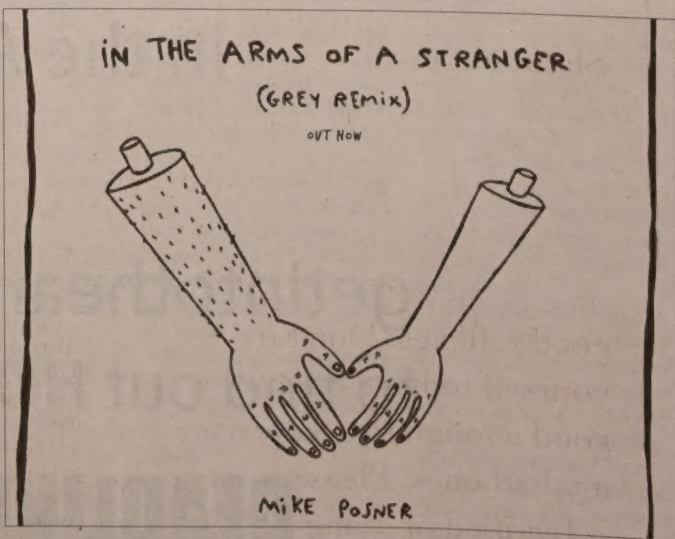
different moods, so there is no reason not to give them both a listen as soon as possible.

In case you were wondering, yes, both of the men of Grey have grey hair, dyed of course. Coincidentally, Mike Posner's bleached blonde hair also has a grey hue to it; Clearly it was all fated to be!

When listening to Posner's meaningful yet lively and fun lyrics, it is hard not to want more. If

you're like me and want to hear what else he has to say, then you are in luck. His collection of poems, titled "Tear Drops and Balloons," will be released on March 17.

Posner is currently on tour across the United States, so stay updated on his latest artistic endeavors at mikeposner.com (and to see when his tour will be near you.) Now, with a new song to add to your playlist, embrace midterm season!



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP

Although Mike Posner's song is from 2016, the Grey remix was released this year.

VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

Shout Outs

Shout out to global warming. We get it, you're real. Please stop now though.

– Just a season please

Shout out to the guy who chews gum during class, I hate you.

– Only wants to hear the teacher

Shout out to the SGA for spending \$1000 on security guards for the FIJI Islander event raising money for ovarian cancer.

– Definitely not a FIJI frat bro

Shout out to the frat brother who tried to fight me. Glad that didn't end the way it could've.

– Just wanted to go home

Shout out to the friend who thought I needed a hug and gave me one, heedless of my 102 degree fever.

– Sick but loved

Shout out to the girl in the library who put her bare feet on the table in A-level. You're one of the reasons studying in the library gets weird past midnight.

– Someone who eats on A-level

Shout out to the girl who complimented my shirt. Really needed it that day.

– Stressed but well dressed

Shout out to all skateboarders I've had near misses with going down North Charles. Please just yell at me to get out of the way, do not trust me to have good reflexes. Don't trust yourself to have reflexes good enough to account for my bad ones. Please.

– Terrified of dying

Who worshipped better: looking at lions



Meagan Peoples
Think About It

The kingdom of which we've crowned lions the rulers is probably the only aristocracy that most of us red-blooded Americans can tolerate. They've busied the imagination of many modern artists, spawning their own Hamlet fan fiction and an award winning Broadway adaptation of said movie.

They're depicted throughout art as symbols of strength and beauty, and although we don't

treat actual lions too well, we have deep appreciation of the symbolic majesty of the idea of a lion.

However, modern society wasn't the first to have lion worshippers. In 2004 French archeologists uncovered the first ever mummified lion in the tomb of King Tutankhamun's wet nurse. You may have heard that ancient Egyptians worshipped cats, so maybe it isn't that far of a leap to believe they worshipped lions.

Many of the Egyptian goddesses are depicted with lion faces including Sekhmet, a terrifying deity often referred to as "the destroyer" (and that was by the people who worshipped her). The other lion-headed goddess you may have heard of is Bastet, who is technically just Sekhmet's other "head." Bastet

(who is sometimes depicted with the face of a domestic cat) is thought to represent the better nature of Sekhmet, and together the two depict the two faced nature of women. Aren't ancient civilizations just so quaint?

Egyptians also believed that lions were the animals of the gods. For this reason maybe it's not surprising that Pharaohs often kept them as pets.

Then of course there is the great sphinx, perhaps the most obvious symbol of lion worship. The word "sphinx" does not come from ancient Egyptian (which makes sense if you think about it) but was actually taken from ancient Greece. The statue was named about 2000 years after its construction for a mythological creature with a woman's head, a lion's

body and the wings of an eagle, which I guess was close enough to the man-headed, wingless statues that are actually present in Egypt.

Although this moniker may not be

exactly accurate, it does offer us a nice segue into talking about lions in ancient Greece. Perhaps the most famous of these is the mythological Nemean lion.

This lion was a supernatural beast who liked to hang around the town of Nemea. Legend has it that he would steal women from nearby towns, drawing on the machismo of all the local heroes to lure them to his cave. However, when these men would come to "save" the women, they would turn into lions and kill them. (I'm sensing a theme about women here.)

So aside from the shapeshifting, the problem with the Nemean lion was that it's skin was impenetrable by human weapons. So Hercules must've been a little baffled when he was faced with such a monster as his first of his 12 labours. Thankfully a woman stepped in, and Athena pointed out that Hercules should use one of the lion's own claws as a weapon.

There's one more thing that ancient Greece and ancient Egypt have in common. Both of them no longer have lions native to their area. In Greece lions went extinct around 100 BC and in Egypt the last Barbary lion is commonly thought to have been killed by a French Colonial hunter in 1922.



Lions are symbols of strength, power and royalty in multiple ancient civilizations.

My fall into the dark world of mobile gaming



Sudgie Ma
New Game

Back in high school, my commute to and from school was over an hour long. I lived in Bayside, which was a suburban-y neighborhood in Queens, New York, but went to school on the Upper East Side in Manhattan.

I had to take both the subway and bus, and they were always crowded because, of course, school starts just after rush hour. There usually wouldn't be any seats available, so I'd have to stand, often in closer contact with people than I would ever have wanted.

There were basically two options I saw available to me while standing: stare at the people around me or stare at my phone. Unfortunately, I couldn't do the former since I inevitably would have to make eye contact with someone and have an awkward moment. Most people opt for the second option, so that was what I ended up sticking with, too.

The thing is, texting and messaging don't work all that well on the underground subway. Wi-fi was limited to only a few major stations, and my phone carrier was T-Mobile, so my service was near nonexistent. I could barely browse the internet at all.

So it's really no wonder that I fell into the rabbit

hole of mobile gaming during this time. It started with Candy Crush, and I went through almost all the games that stayed in the App Store's Top 50 free games for a considerable amount of time at one point or another. I'm sure some of these are going to sound familiar: stuff like Temple Run, Subway Surfer, Where's My Water?, Cut the Rope and the dozens of spin-offs and rip-offs they generated.

I thought I'd have endless free material to entertain me, but as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. There would be a point in almost every game, where I could no longer advance without getting significantly better, putting in a lot more time or, the easiest option, spending money (more specifically, spending my parents' money).

That's when I dug myself into a deeper hole by dipping into the world of micro transactions. The micro transaction system is one of the most ingenious money-making schemes in the history of gaming. You think you're not paying much when every little power-up is just 99 cents, but eventually, all those micro transactions will turn into one big macro transaction.

Then money sink didn't just stop there, though; It

went way deeper when I started playing games like Clash of Clans or Puzzle & Dragons. I was a big fan of the latter; It played like a hybrid of Pokémon and Candy Crush. Puzzle & Dragons didn't just give you the options for power boosts or extra lives in its microtransactions. It gave you the option to gamble for the strongest and rarest five-star monsters with in-game slot machines.

The money-draining scam in Puzzle & Dragons basically worked this way for me: I'd spend \$5 for a chance at a good monster, and I'd most likely get something completely mundane, like a three-star monster. "Okay, but you've only spent \$5, so you shouldn't have really expected anything," I'd tell myself. "Spend another \$5."

Then I'd get a mediocre three-star monster again. "Okay, but you're already \$10 in. If you stop now, everything would've been for nothing," was my logic to continue. In reality, the cost for another chance would be \$5, but in my mind, it would be that and everything else I'd already spent

up to that point. The concept of sunk costs in economics actually describes scenarios exactly like this: It refers to when you've spent money that can't be recovered. Sunk costs are useless for us to consider in our decisions, but we consider them, regardless.

So by the time anyone gets something they'd be happy with in Puzzle & Dragons, they could easily have dumped a hundred bucks. I'd even read anecdotes of people spending close to a thousand dollars without getting any five-star monsters.

I eventually stopped playing Puzzle & Dragons and other mobile games, especially as I slept less and less throughout high school; I would devote more of my commute time to sleeping while standing (or at least attempting to).

Nowadays, my mobile gaming is limited to Facebook Messenger games. It's fun to see group chats get into a rage over these games, but I haven't gotten as obsessed with them as some of my other friends. I think it's safe to say I've learned my lesson.



Clash of Clans is a popular mobile gaming app that was released in 2012 for iOS.

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NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

Hopkins deserves a better sexual assault module

The University sent out an email to current juniors and seniors on Feb 28 requiring them to complete a mandatory online training course that addresses sexual assault, as well as alcohol and drug use. Freshmen and sophomores had previously completed the module, called Think About It, as part of their Orientation.

The Editorial Board commends the University for making an effort to educate students about sexual assault and misconduct, and we agree that every Hopkins student should have to complete a course that exposes rape culture on college campuses and the reality of sexual assault.

Sexual assault can affect juniors and seniors too, and it's important that each student has the same basis of understanding. If freshmen and sophomores had to complete the module, juniors and seniors should complete it too.

However, the Editorial Board, along with a significant portion of the student body, finds this module deeply inadequate, and it needs to be altered dramatically if the University continues to use it.

The University lied to upperclassmen when it stated in its announcement email that the module would take 45 minutes to complete. The module actually takes over 90 minutes to complete, further frustrating students. Hopkins must be transparent and consistent when describing mandatory programs, and with Think About It the University failed.

Additionally, in the University's email, Joy Gaslevic, the Title IX coordinator, and Dean of Student Life Terry Martinez framed the module as an effort to prevent sexual misconduct, but the module involves numerous sections that exclusively focus on drug and alcohol abuse.

Alcohol must be included in any future program because sexual misconduct is more likely to occur in situations where alcohol is present. But the section in Think About It veers off topic when discussing drunk driving, showing videos that explain exactly what a "drink" is, and bizarrely explaining how to make a Long Island Iced Tea. The module also oddly contained an entire section on drug abuse, without tying it to sexual assault.

Throughout the module, Think About It tries to present "relatable" characters to guide the user through a video game-like experience, but it falls

flat. The module includes unnecessary details about the characters that detract from the overall message.

For example, Tom, a gay student, is said to have "traditional Filipino parents." Tom is the only student whose ethnicity is mentioned. The module implies that his family's potential homophobia had prevented him from exploring his sexuality before college. Think About It presents his sexual "awakening" as part of a natural progression in reaction to his upbringing. Why did the Think About It team decide to include obvious stereotypes in its lesson? And why did they only present such detailed background for the gay, Filipino student?

One of the first sections of the training focuses on hookup culture and communication, but the its tone clearly supports abstinence and shames sexual exploration. This logic could turn a student's simple regret for a consensual sexual encounter into shame, making the student feel guilty for having consensual casual sex.

The module's presentation of the definition of rape is problematic. The module defines rape as "vaginal intercourse with someone who cannot give consent, expressly denies consent and is forced, threatened or in fear." However, this definition differs from what the federal government, Maryland and the University call "rape."

The University's broader definition of rape, which includes "any act of sexual intercourse with another individual against a person's will or without consent, where sexual intercourse includes vaginal or anal penetration, however slight, with any body part or object, or oral penetration involving mouth to genital contact," is available within the training, but it is buried within a long document. The module requires that users open the University's policy and agree to it before moving on, but there is no way to confirm that users have actually read the entire policy.

Furthermore, since the University's definition of rape is the broadest of the three, it is easier to violate the University's policy than module's. Hopkins should stress its own, more stringent policy in the module.

Think About It also needs to clearly address that there are conflicting definitions of rape and explain in an easy to understand way what the consequences of specific sexual acts would be at the Uni-

versity, state and federal levels. It also needs to define more clearly the differences between "rape," "sexual assault," a "sexual offense" and "sexual misconduct."

Students also need to know which resources are available to survivors of sexual assault. The Editorial Board recommends that the module clearly displays all the resources Hopkins provides on campus, including those offered by student groups like the Sexual Assault Resource Unit (SARU). Right now the module does not provide this information in a digestible way.

Think About It's tone is too conversational for the subject matter. The training awards points and badges as users answer questions and read articles, but there should not be rewards for completing a module about sexual assault. Think About It aims to be relatable, but quickly becomes laughable. Many of the gimmicks in the program are inappropriate and make it feel like a video game. This training does not need to be fun; It needs to be serious, respectful and educational.

The Editorial Board questions how effective an online program can be in educating students about sexual assault. Many of the students who took it last year or as incoming freshmen told us that they do not remember much about it, so this module may not even have any lasting impact.

We want to commend our Title IX coordinator Joy Gaslevic for her straightforward communication with The News-Letter. We know that her job is difficult, and we want to thank her for her hard work and her dedication to students. We encourage students with complaints about this module to send them to Gaslevic. She cannot work to change anything if she does not know which parts of the training are problematic. But we are confident that she will do her best.

Think About It should be better, and it easily can be. The Editorial Board hopes that the University and students will work with the module's developers to improve it. It is without a doubt important that all students have the same education about sexual assault, but that education needs to be accessible, effective and serious. Think About It is not effective or serious, and before it is given to the next generation of Hopkins students, it must be improved.

Letter to the Editor

In response to the article "Henrietta Lacks' estate to sue Hopkins Hospital" published on March 2:

Rebecca Skloot's critically acclaimed and prize-winning book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, is a meticulously researched and reported work of independent journalism that we have been proud to publish.

Since its publication seven years ago, the book has brought heightened awareness to the significant contributions of HeLa

cells to medicine and modern science, and numerous members of the Lacks family have participated in interviews and public events in support of the book and of the importance of telling the story of Henrietta Lacks.

In advance of the book's publication, Ms. Skloot provided multiple copies of the manuscript to members of the Lacks family and solicited their comments and corrections, which were subsequently incorporated

in the book. Lawrence Lacks consented to be interviewed by Ms. Skloot during her reporting and attended meetings with Ms. Skloot and other family members at which the contents of the book were discussed at length. The manuscript also went through an extensive fact checking process, and we fully stand behind it. Any statements made to the contrary are simply not true.

— A spokesperson from the Crown Publishing Group

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The News-Letter encourages letters to the editor and op-eds. The Johns Hopkins News-Letter reserves the sole right to edit all op-ed pieces and/or letters to the editor for space, grammar, clarity, accuracy and style. This applies to the body of the submission as well as its headline. Upon approval for publication, all op-eds and letters to the editor become property of The News-Letter. The News-Letter reserves the right to not publish any op-ed or letter to the editor for any reason, at the sole discretion of the Editors-in-Chief. Letters to the editor are limited to 250 words, must address content previously published in The News-Letter, and must include the author's name, address and phone number. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week's issue; they should be sent to chiefs@jhnewsletter.com (with "Letter to the editor" in the subject line) or the mailing address below. To write an op-ed, contact opinions@jhnewsletter.com. Op-eds are not limited in their length except as available space may dictate. All submissions may be published online as well as in the paper, and no anonymous submissions will be accepted.

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STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS: Kunal Maiti

COPY STAFF: Peter Ji, Amanda Kaufmann, Karen Sheng

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Mailing Address:
3400 N. Charles St.
Matten Center, Suite 131
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: (410) 516-6000
Email: chiefs@jhnewsletter.com
Business Email: business@

OPINIONS

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We need to fight the culture of college apathy

By ALEX SILBERZWEIG

When some students hear the word “college,” they perk up and think about the fascinating classes they are taking, the lifelong friends they are making and the exciting freedoms that come with living away from home. Others might cringe and recoil upon hearing this word.

These people, whose reactions seem more suited to a reference to a natural disaster, have created and perpetuated a culture that hinges upon and inflates the less desirable aspects of college. They are the both the creators and the victims of apathetic college culture.

Before I continue, I must mention that I am not writing this to condemn people who speak in ill will about college. Quite honestly, college is really just a magnified version of any school. We are essentially full-time students but without pay. Instead, we pay to learn. The majority of us even live where we learn.

Sometimes such an immersive experience is for the better, and sometimes we just become sick of it. Nevertheless, some of the more undesirable aspects of the college experience have equated college with apathy.

We need to confront apathetic college culture, in part because it negatively affects freshmen at the beginning of their college experience. They are told, time and time again, that they will pull tons of all-nighters, will be able to afford nothing but ramen and will end the year with “x” number of blackouts.

I’m not saying that these experiences do not occur, but this kind of talk gives newly minted college students the excuse to completely disregard their welfare.

Moreover, many think their college experience would be incomplete without these bouts of messiness. When we instill these negative ideas in students at the beginning of college, they are likely to hold onto them for all four years.

The countless jokes that have emerged from apathetic college culture make both college students and administrations liable. College students who complain about their lives, whether within reason or with an air of exaggeration, often do so without thinking about how to fix their issues. Why am I so tired? Why do I lack motivation? Whether the reasons are minor or serious, by talking offhandedly and not considering the real roots of their problems, students let them fester.

In fact, college apathy can best be compared to a widespread, often-dismissed case of a disease that simply worsens and spreads. It has even made itself at home in mainstream media away from college campuses, where high school students fear that they will be nothing more than a piece of paper with their name on it and thousands upon thousands of dollars in debt.

Many adults fry to discount the veracity of college apathy by saying that college students are apathetic simply because they are teenagers. However, many of us were motivated enough to get into college by getting good grades in high school and participating in ex-

tracurricular activities. Hence, the root of this apathy seems to start and end at the university level.

That is why we cannot exclusively blame this universally accepted college culture on college students. College administrations and parents who do not listen to the complaints and concerns of college students only exacerbate already-existing problems. Furthermore, some of the most pressing problems that come with college, including student loans and academic insecurity, are often issues that cannot simply be resolved by and among young adults.

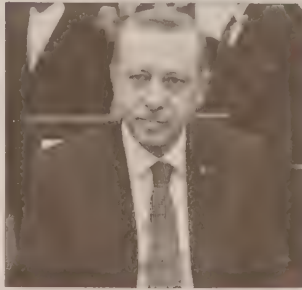
Our government cares far too little about how much people must sacrifice to get a higher education. College administrations oftentimes disregard student well-being in favor of sometimes unreasonable workloads and demands. This only furthers the sense of apathy that college students feel. We feel as if nobody, even the institutions that claim to have our backs, will listen.

Although I would like to end on a positive note, I am afraid I can only end on an urgent one. The effects of collegiate apathy extend far beyond campus walls. If we don’t address the issue now, administrations will continue to ignore this critical issue confronting universities.

College students will continue to neglect to take care of themselves and have the potential to hurt their futures badly. Both college students and people in authority positions have convincing reasons to improve the college experience.

Alex Silberzweig is a freshman economics major from New York.

Emperor Erdoğan of Turkey must be stopped



MICHA JÓZEFACIUK/CC BY-SA 3.0
Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

By HOWARD SENIOR

In many respects, Kemalism’s death warrant was signed by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on July 20, 2016. Following an abortive coup d’état, the Turkish president predicated a state of emergency. In other words, it was a constitutional suspension of the Turkish constitution on the destabilized sociopolitical atmosphere of the country, prompting a widespread culling of dissent within Turkish society.

The first to go, of course, were those accused of being “Gülenist” conspirators within the ranks of the military. As reported by the government of Turkey, 1,684 members of the Turkish Armed Forces had been suspended by July 27, and 96 were arrested. By October, however, the government, under the watchful eye of President Erdoğan, had dismissed upwards of 100,000 more civil servants, according to the BBC.

This represents the most obvious slide towards autocracy since Erdoğan first joined the highest echelons of the Turkish state in 2003 as premier. His palpable disdain for dissent, especially that which is directed at the media, has reached climactic levels. His favorite piece of legislation, the oft-invoked statute that renders “insulting the president” verboten, has led to the imprisonment of several thousand journalists across Anatolia. In fact, Turkey leads the world in jailed journalists, beating out such regimes as Vladimir Putin’s Russia, the People’s Republic of China, Cuba, Venezuela and North Korea; Erdoğan’s rabid pursuit of detrac-

tors knows no equal.

Through the Justice and Development Party (abbreviated AKP), Erdoğan has cultivated an overzealous, disturbingly nationalistic base of support centered around the principle of Neo-Ottomanism. As the name might imply, Neo-Ottomanism calls for a resurgence of the ascendancy of the Turkish state in areas formerly ruled by the Ottoman Empire.

In a sense, the variety of Neo-Ottomanism pushed by the AKP can be compared to a (rather alarming) form of Turkish irredentism, conflated with revanchism stemming from the Empire’s castration by the Treaty of Sèvres and a desire for the reintroduction of Islamism into the largely secular domestic politics of Turkey.

These tenets are diametrically opposed to the Republic of Turkey’s founding principles, laid out by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic. The contravention of Kemalism’s guiding pillars, being democracy, secularism and the distinction of the Turkish Republic from Ottoman Turkey, is a grievous disservice to the Republic and could undo almost a century’s worth of progress.

The recently proposed constitutional amendment, an addendum that would mangle Turkey’s long-standing majoritarian parliamentary system beyond recognition, represents the culmination of Erdoğan’s long-standing quest to centralize power in Turkey. The adoption of a presidential system in Turkey, a country historically beset by issues stemming from highly centralized state apparatuses, would almost certainly spell the quick and painful death of what remains of Turkey’s democracy.

Furthermore, under Erdoğan, the Government of Turkey has pursued a merciless policy of op-

position against the Kurdish minorities of southeast Anatolia and northern Syria. Erdoğan has justified such punitive measures against the embattled Kurds with a blanket accusation that the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) enjoys a broad base of support within the region. In other words, because of the actions of a few, the overwhelming majority of Kurds are forced to suffer.

Ultimately, the AKP-dominated government’s stance toward Kurdistan is driven less by a perceived “terrorist threat” stemming from the PKK than an intrinsic prejudice against the Kurdish people and what they represent: a major roadblock against the sociocultural homogenization of the Turkish state.

Erdoğan must be stopped at all costs. The constitutional amendment must, for the sake of Turkey’s well-being and posterity, be defeated at the ballot box, else Turkey risks slipping into the insurmountable ravine of statist authoritarianism. The right to freedom of speech is under siege from the Bosphorus to the Caucasus, and unless the power of the state is curtailed, the Turkish people risk far worse.

Indeed, for Turkish Kurds, the burden of runaway state power channeled toward the institutionalization of bigotry can be felt every day. The world runs the risk of the resurgence of the Ottoman Empire, and unless we are willing to stand against Emperor Erdoğan, pretending Sultan of Anatolia, the people of Turkey will lose.

Howard Senior is a freshman double major in economics and mathematics from Miami.



PUBLIC DOMAIN
This map indicates Kurdish-inhabited parts of the Middle East.

Liberals fundamentally misunderstand protests and leftism

By EMELINE ARMITAGE

The free speech debate is raging on campuses. Again. This time the think pieces stem from two events: the widely publicized canceled Milo Yiannopoulos event at UC Berkeley and conservative Charles Murray’s speech at Middlebury that was thrown into chaos by protesters.

The factions are the same as they have been for years: conservatives who agree with or at least want to hear speakers, leftists (typically anarchists and communists) who protest the event (using a mix of non-violent tactics, violent tactics and property destruction) and a group somewhere in the middle: liberals who vehemently disagree with the speaker but believe they should speak without protests.

The third group’s arguments

usually sound like this: “I find [insert name]’s views abhorrent, but I believe in free speech” or, paraphrasing Voltaire, “I may disagree with [insert name], but I will defend their right to speak.” Wash, rinse, repeat every few months. However, these arguments fundamentally misunderstand protest as a tactic as well as the goals of leftists.

The speakers have not had their basic legal right to free speech threatened. I have seen no leftist call for the arrest or legal sanction of Yiannopoulos, Murray or any other speaker. Of course, there may be individual exceptions, but legal reprisal is not a goal of the movement.

At this point it is cliché, but legally “free speech” means freedom from legal consequences, not freedom from consequences in general. If someone is humming a song I don’t like in the library and I retort by drowning them out by loudly humming

the *Blue’s Clues* theme song, I am not infringing on their right to free speech in any way.

Similarly, the tactic of protesting (either violently or nonviolently) is fundamentally a tactic to be employed outside the legal system, often when there are no legal avenues to achieve the movement’s goals.

Last year, there was a tongue-in-cheek protest on the Beach to allow students to eat and drink in the library. Legally, of course, we students had no standing: The school can ban food from the library as it sees fit. However, offering the rebuttal “but legally can the school can ban food” is obviously lacking an understanding of protest. Students were not calling for a law ensuring the right to eat food in libraries, but rather a specific policy change that infringes on no one’s legal rights.

Liberals tend to then shift to the argument about the concept of free speech rather than its legality. It may be perfectly legal to shut down a speaker, they say, but we should defend the concept of free speech by allowing anyone to speak. Yet again, liberals fundamentally misunderstand the goals of leftists. Appealing to leftists with the lofty concept of free speech will have no effect, as leftists, for the most part, do not agree with the liberal ideal of free speech (agree with them or not, this is indisputable).

Leftists are not fighting for lofty concepts; They are fighting a culture war and they want

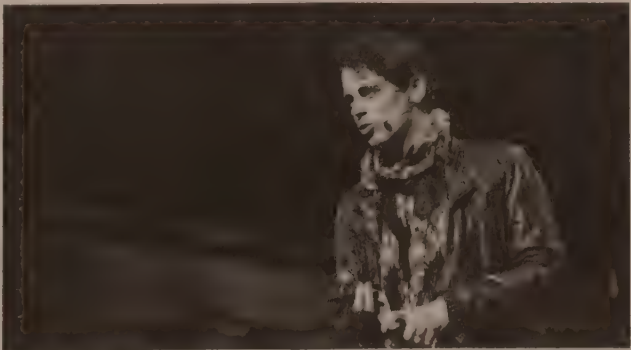
to win. Ironically, conservatives are much more like leftists than liberals in this regard. Take, for example, the shutdown of pro-Palestinian activism such as Fordham University’s ban on Students for Justice in Palestine or the still active California law barring communists from being teachers (funnily enough, I haven’t heard any liberal protest this law).

Conservatives and leftists don’t want to hear both sides or uphold idealistic concepts of the marketplace of ideas; They both want to win, to crush the other side. Liberals, on the other hand, will continue to write think pieces and lose elections.

Inevitably, soon another conservative speaker will be shut down on a college campus. The same essays and tweets and Facebook statuses will pop up; Only the names of the colleges and the speakers will be different. That famous Voltaire quote will be paraphrased ad nauseam across newspaper pages and social media. Conservatives will achieve electoral and legislative victories, and leftists will eke out culture war victories.

And liberals will be alone, misunderstanding the fundamentals of leftist movements and protest, staring wistfully out the window at their tattered “I’m With Her” sign, composing yet another Facebook status.

Emeline Armitage is a junior International Studies major from Cleveland.



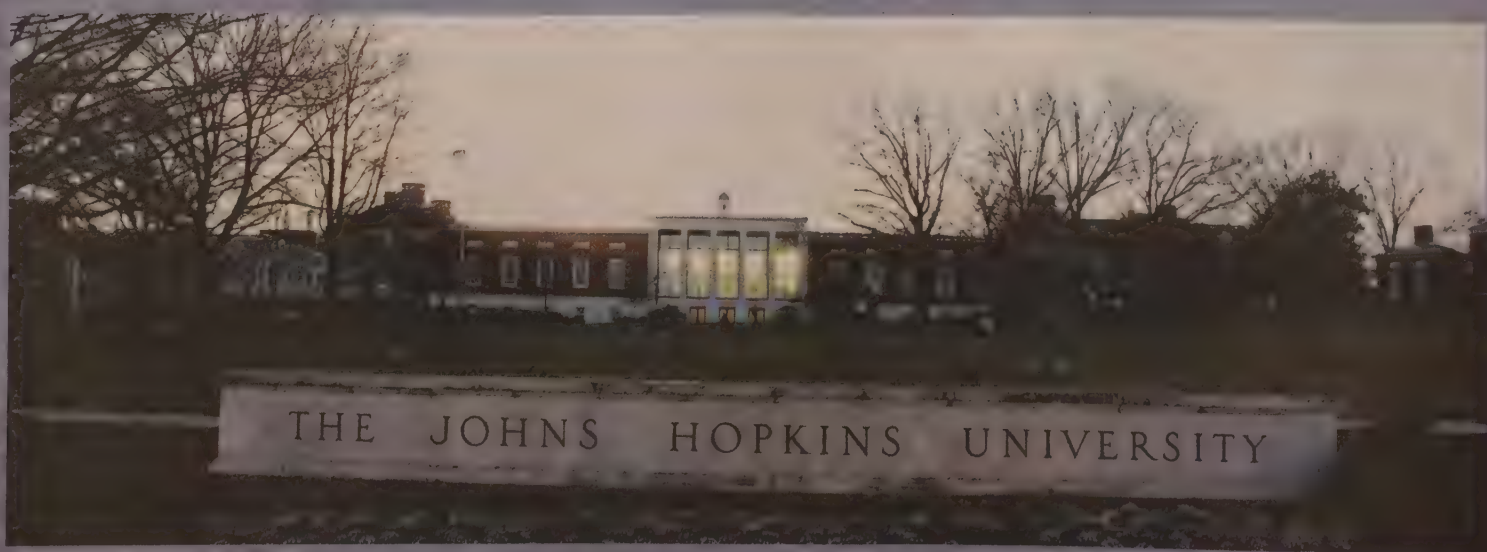
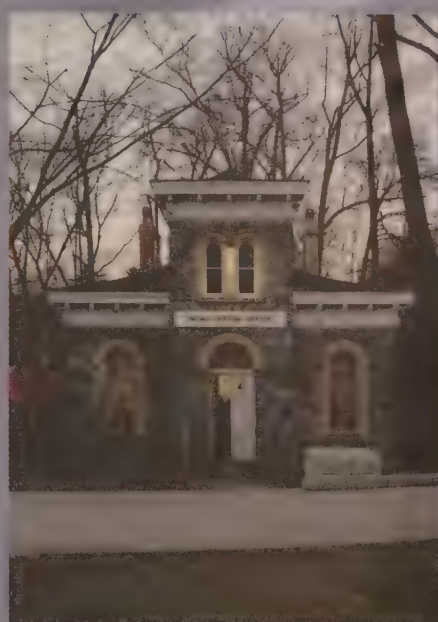
OFFICIAL LEWEB PHOTOS/CC BY 2.0
Milo Yiannopoulos is a controversial far-right writer who has sparked protests.

PHOTO ESSAY



Hopkins at Twilight

By Morgan Ome



THE B SECTION

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YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

MARCH 9, 2017



Arts & Entertainment

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YOUR WEEKEND MARCH 9-12

Events in Baltimore Antiquing: not just a pastime for Grandma this weekend

Thursday

Thursday Night Gallery Drawing:
Medieval Knights Hall, The Walters,
6 p.m. — 9 p.m.

Create observational drawings with the facilitation of a practicing artist employed by the museum. Basic materials provided. Free for members, \$5 for non members.

Friday

Chris Crass: Collective Liberation in the Era of Trump, The Church of the Redeemer, 6:30 p.m.

SURJ Baltimore and Baltimore Racial Justice Action host a talk by Chris Crass on courageously standing up for racial justice through collective and individual action in these times. Free.

Monster Comedy with IMPROV JAM!, Zissimos Bar, 8 p.m. — 10:30 p.m.

Stand-up comedy, a trivia panel show and a whole lot of sketches will be featured in this manifestation of a monthly show. Followed by a set by the house troupe Banana Phone and an open improv jam. \$5 at door cash only or online till 7:30 p.m. on the day of the event.

Saturday

Bmore Songstresses, Creative Alliance, 8 p.m.

Four local female vocalists/songwriters come together for a night of musical surprises. Artists are Letitia VanSant, Anne Watts, QueenEarth and J.Pope. \$15, + \$3 at door.

The Ivy Bookshop hosts Mohsin Hamid, The Ivy Bookshop, 7 p.m.

Mohsin Hamid will speak on his new book, *Exit West*. Admission is \$28 per person or per couple and includes a copy of his book. 100 percent of the evening's net book sales will go to the IRC in Baltimore.

Sunday

Artist Conversation: Guerrilla Girl Frida Kahlo, The Baltimore Museum of Art, 3 p.m.

In conjunction with the closing of the Front Room: Guerrilla Girls, hear the BMA's senior curator of contemporary art in conversation with Guerrilla Girl Frida Kahlo. The event is free, but pre-registration is required.

The Wild Purim Rumpus, the 8X10, 8 p.m.

Celebrate the Jewish holiday of Purim, which commemorates the overthrow of Haman's would-be act of genocide as is detailed in the Book of Esther. Get silly, give to those in need and eat! \$10 in advance, \$15 at door.

By HANNAH MELTON
 For The News-Letter

Last weekend found me trolling Hampden's antique shops for a solid two hours on the mighty quest to find Hawaiian shirts worthy of the new-est Mental Notes.

This is a long-held tradition: When new members join, we all meet up bright and early, aka 10:30 a.m., on a Saturday and make a noble trek to visit the hipster little sister of Charles Village.

Most students are very familiar with Hampden's quirky charm: The restaurants are a staple in any Hopkins kid's rotation.

However, I'm sure that many of us have been wary of the pricey shopping scene on the Avenue. But duck into some of the antique shops, on or just off the Avenue, and you'll find a plethora of fun and affordable items.

In two hours, we meandered through five stores, all of which sold some sort of antique or second-hand item.

If you're going down the Avenue from the south (as in, walking in from campus), here's the order you should hit 'em up.

First up is Whatnots Antiques. On the left side of the Avenue, on the same block as the Charmery, Whatnots is the prototypical antique

shop: lots of china, old hats and cool prints from the '50s.

The owners bring their dog into work sometimes, making it a fun shopping experience for those who miss their canine friends. Whatnots has neat little trinkets but is a little pricier than options further down. This is a place to take your history-loving relatives when they visit.

Continue down the same side of the Avenue, about four or five doors down, and you'll find Milk and Ice. It houses both vintage clothing and decor. Find beautiful sterling silver rings, weird posters and great leather boots at fairly reasonable prices. Be sure to chat with the owners: They're very kind and are happy to check in the back if you're looking for something specific.

Back on the main road is Doubledutch, where you can find an array of vintage items as well as hip, newly made apparel. The accessories are great: I picked up some cute earrings and nice new sunglasses for \$28 all together.

Speaking of killers, be sure to keep your ears open as you shop around. You'll hear some juicy things.

As we perused the multi-colored racks at Changed My Mind, further down the Avenue on



COURTESY OF HANNAH MELTON

Hampden's antiques scene offers unique apparel and store pets.

the corner of 36th Street, we couldn't help but listen to the cheery regaling of a coffin recently found in the shop above — with the body still in it.

It was reportedly thought to be from the 1920s; When asked if it had been moved, the informant said, "Oh no! He didn't want to be in the car with a dead body."

Equally exciting? Sweaters, women's suits and many other fine items were marked at 20 percent off. Get there before the sale ends (or another body is found).

Keep walking until the Avenue intersects and hits Falls Road, and then turn right. The Hunting Ground is housed in a gorgeous

stone cathedral at the end of the block (past a funeral home — maybe that body won't need to go too far!).

The Hunting Ground hands-down claims the best aesthetic and collection. Prices range from reasonable to more pricey. The Hunting Ground also sells an array of essential oils and avant-garde home decor, perfect gifts for that friend who already seems to own everything.

The Hampden crowd might lean toward the younger side, but some of the neighborhood's best goods are definitely its oldest. Especially when they're housed in a coffin under some floorboards.

Baltimore theater offers both good prices and class

By RENEE SCAVONE
 For The News-Letter

There's just something about a night at the theater, the joy of experiencing a story unfold in real time, of feeling the energy of human emotion in the room, of sharing laughs and tears with otherwise strangers in the dark for two hours. Of course the built-in class factor also doesn't hurt. Consider the following two statements:

A. "Last night? I spent the evening enjoying a theatrical production."

B. "Last night? I spent the evening avoiding vomiting freshmen and getting Natty Boh on my shoes."

Person A probably has clean hair and three career opportunities waiting for them at Handshake. Person B probably has a load of laundry they're avoiding.

So if you're ready to transcend your usual weekend plans (or just want an excuse to seem really mature and cultured when talking to friends), you're in luck!

Hopkins and Baltimore in general both have a lot of good theater. Furthermore, while I myself once believed that attending productions was a marker of bourgeois indulgence, I have come to appreciate the Baltimore scene not only for the quality of its shows but for the reasonable price of most events.

Take the Baltimore Improv Group (BIG) for example. Just like it says on the tin, BIG is dedicated to bringing unscripted theater to the greater community, through shows, festivals and classes.

In March they have

events five days a week, sometimes more. Most shows feature more than one performer and will only set you back about \$5 — a great bargain for an evening of entertainment you can chat with all of your humanities professors about.

Furthermore, if a night watching troupes like Bears Only or Plan B inspires you to get into improv yourself, BIG is hosting two Sunday night intro to improv classes this month, on March 19 and 26.

Most BIG shows take place in the conveniently located Single Carrot Theatre at 2600 N. Howard Street, across the street from the Ottobar. The walk from Shriver Hall only takes about 15 minutes.

If that's still a bit of a stretch for you, just hop on either the Blue or Pink Route Shuttles and ride until the stop at Remington Row on 27th and Remington. From there, just round the corner to Howard street and head south for a block.

If you want an experience that's a bit more heavy hitting, Single Carrot Theatre also hosts a number of other productions, many of which are oriented towards today's changing political landscape.

In the month of March, Single Carrot is presenting "Undercurrent: Theatre for Now," a series of four creator-performed shows that centers around a range of perspectives, from a Christian right It-Girl to a mixed-race nanny spending the summer in Baltimore.

Student tickets will set you back about \$18, which makes Single Carrot a pricier option, but if you



COURTESY OF RENEE SCAVONE

Zoo Story will be performed this weekend at the John Astin Theatre.

want to see more than one show you can buy tickets bundled and save that way.

Additionally you can spend confidently knowing that your money is going to support a local organization that helps artists' voices be heard.

Finally if you want to experience all of the high points of live theater but are busy (too busy to leave campus) this coming weekend, for three days you have the chance to check out Edward Albee's *Zoo Story* here on campus.

Albee is famed for writing popular plays such as *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and devastating one liners such as "You gotta have a swine to show you where the truffles are."

Zoo Story will be performed at the John Astin Theatre in the Merrick Barn, located right outside of Brody's lower entrance.

The play revolves around a man just trying to enjoy an afternoon in Central Park until a stranger shows up and takes "his attention, his afternoon, and quite possibly his bench."

The play features two Hopkins juniors, Gabe Gaston and Isaac Lunt, and is being produced as part of the Theatre Arts & Studies minor here at Hopkins. The play starts at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 10, Saturday, March 11 and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 12.

Regardless of where you go or who you see, getting to experience a live performance is always special. Whether you're a lifelong theater aficionado or you're just looking for something different to do on a Saturday night, there are many fun shows for you to explore right in the neighborhood!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A history of Wu-Tang Clan’s kung fu samples

Gotham plays with Batman origin story



Ghostface Killah, a key member of ‘90s rap collective Wu-Tang Clan, recently released *Sour Soul*.



Will Kirsch
The Cut-Rate Critic

Do you like the Wu-Tang Clan? Of course you do; It is impossible not to. Assuming that whoever might read this is indeed an avid fan of the RZA, the GZA, Ol’ Dirty Bastard, Inspectah Deck, U-God, Ghostface Killah, Method Man, Raekwon the Chef, the Masta Killa and all their assorted affiliates, I bring good tidings.

Part of what makes Wu-Tang so great are the samples that the production wizard RZA used to create a sound so unlike any other before it. Those samples were often pulled from kung fu movies but not the expensive, money-is-no-object blockbusters most people below the age of 40 would be familiar with.

RZA instead drew from the films that gave the Clan its name: the low-budget, campy,

corny and amazing action movies that were churned out by the Shaw Brothers Studio throughout the latter half of the 20th century.

There are a lot of these movies, thousands in fact, and quite a few are available for streaming on Netflix and Amazon. They are generally in Mandarin originally, being that the Shaw Brothers’ massive Movietown studio was located in Hong Kong.

Dubbed versions are arguably more endearing due to the comical failings of dubbed dialogue, but they are also elusive, so you will have to settle for subtitles.

Although it would be a grand endeavor to watch all these films and write an article on that, I would rather not fail out of school. So instead, I will provide you, dear reader, with a light sampling of gaudy kung fu excellence. Here are three Shaw Brothers films and, as an added bonus, the Wu-Tang songs that sample them. Yes we are crossing artistic disciplines here at *The News-Letter*. Welcome to high intellectual culture.

- 1. *Invincible Shaolin* (1978): This ‘70s masterpiece stars the Shaw’s favored

leading men, the Venom Mob. That is a very intimidating name for a group of actors, but it does sound really cool. There were six principle Venoms — Kuo Chui, Lu Feng, Chiang Sheng, Sun Chien, Lo Mang and Wei Pai — each of whom filled a particular role and specialized in a particular fighting style.

In *Invincible Shaolin*, the Venoms play a group of Shaolin monks who are duped into a clan war by a perfidious Qing general. The Qing Dynasty, which ruled from 1644 to 1912, was Manchurian as opposed to Han Chinese like the majority of its subjects. That historical fact comes across in this film: The foreignness of the Qing villains is a major part of the conflict, since they were unpopular amongst the Han.

Anyway, the plot is eventually discovered and the film culminates

in an exciting and highly choreographed fight scene full of post-production sound effects and ketchup-y blood. As far as the Wu-Tang connection, this one is a bit limited, but dialogue from the movie was featured in the song “Mantis” from RZA’s alter-ego album, *Bobby Digital in Stereo*.

2. *The Five Deadly Venoms* (1978):

In case the title did not make it too obvious, this movie also stars the Venoms, although in this they are known by their corresponding animal styles: Centipede, Snake, Scorpion, Lizard and Toad. In the film, the dying master of the legendary and elusive Poison Clan sends his last remaining pupil to find the missing Venoms, one of whom is unknown to the others. Unsurprisingly several of the Venoms are up to some dastardly deeds and the pupil recruits Lizard and Toad to help him defeat the remaining three.

There are some plot twists — this movie actually has a pretty strong storyline — and of course an intense final battle scene. Apart from the endearingly low-budget special effects and the over-the-top acting, *Five Deadly Venoms* is a truly good movie. It is part murder-mystery, part action-adventure. More importantly, the violent climax includes people running

SEE WU-TANG, PAGE B5

By CATHERINE PALMER
Managing Editor

A prequel to the traditional Batman saga, *Gotham* is one the most unique and compelling superhero shows on television. Currently in its third season on Fox, the show opens with the murder of Thomas and Martha Wayne, witnessed by their 12-year-old son Bruce (David Mazouz), who will grow to become Batman, and 14-year-old street kid Selina Kyle (Camren Bicondova), who will grow to become Catwoman.

The murder has repercussions for all the residents of Gotham City and catalyzes the city’s descent into darkness, madness and chaos that makes Batman’s rise necessary.

However unlike most other superhero shows, *Gotham* is not centered on one character. It features a true ensemble cast, giving equal time and equally sympathetic treatment to both heroes and villains. It proves that the battle between good and evil is actually far less compelling than the battle within the gray area in between.

The Villains: *Gotham* is to the Batman villains what *Wicked* is to the Wicked Witch of the West. It presents the backstories of classic Batman villains, including The Penguin (Robin Lord Taylor), The

Riddler (Cory Michael Smith) and a quasi-Joker (Cameron Monaghan) in a complex, sympathetic and thrilling new light.

Penguin, aka Oswald Cobblepot, is introduced as a young, ambitious nobody looking to make a name for himself in the Gotham mob scene as a lackey to boss Fish Mooney (Jada Pinkett Smith). Through keen insight and brilliant manipulation that often fools characters and viewers alike, Penguin begins working his way up the food chain. Taylor’s outstandingly nuanced performance, makes him one of *Gotham*’s best villains and one you might actually find yourself rooting for.

The character of Fish Mooney was actually created specifically for the show and plays a crucial role in Cobblepot’s evolution into Penguin. Pinkett Smith makes her a captivating villain in her own right with a commanding on-screen presence.

The Riddler, aka Edward Nygma, is perhaps Gotham’s most inconspicuous villain. He is introduced as a genuinely mild-mannered, albeit odd, forensic scientist at the Gotham City Police Department (GCPD). His love of riddles and stunted social skills frustrate his co-workers, but he is certainly not seen as a threat by anyone. However, as the season

SEE GOTHAM, PAGE B5

HBO makes another hit with Big Little Lies

By KATHERINE LOGAN
Staff Writer

It isn’t often that adaptations of “chick-lit” are viewed as meriting the kind of immense resources, star-power and attention that has been given to HBO’s latest mini-series, *Big Little Lies* (adapted from the Liane Moriarty novel of the same name).

Then again it also isn’t every day that television is produced by a company such as Reese Witherspoon’s Pacific Standard Productions, whose goal is to highlight nuanced narratives surrounding the female experience. *Big Little Lies* serves to disprove the normalization of the notion that a man will be unwilling to watch a show centered around dynamic female characters because it’s “too girly,” yet women and men will be equally willing to sit through the same big-budget, often male-centric films nominated for Oscars.

It shows that there is an underestimated, undervalued audience of strong, feminist women looking for characters that aren’t just stock models of “the girl next door” or “the manic pixie dream girl,” but that instead encompass a wide range of emotions and values depending on the circumstances surrounding them.

If *Big Little Lies* and Pacific Standard Productions’ other projects are any indication, then the future of great film and television is most certainly female.

So, you’re probably wondering, what is the basic plot of *Big Little Lies*? Well we’re alongside the relatively young single mom Jane (Shailene Woodley) and her son Ziggy as they enter into the ultra-rich, ultra-competitive realm of Monterey in California. Here, they encounter Madeline Martha Mackenzie (Reese Witherspoon), heralded as a “Type A Hero” by *New*

SEE BIG LITTLE LIES, PAGE B5

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

It’s become a well-accepted part of our culture that nobody reads the terms and conditions contract to which we all consent when using Apple products. After all, why would you? It’s long and boring, and it’s so much easier to click agree and be done with it. Yet I can now say that I’ve not only read it but was also compelled and entertained by it. That’s thanks to *Terms and Conditions*, a graphic novel adaptation by cartoonist R. Sikoryak.

Admittedly I wasn’t thrilled by the idea at first. After all, there’s no narrative or characters to illustrate, so it was difficult to imagine how the contract could sustain such a project. But after starting Sikoryak’s graphic novel, I was surprisingly enchanted by an engaging mashup of artistic styles unified by a turtlenecked, bespectacled Steve Jobs rendered on each page. Sikoryak has previously adapted classic literature in parodies of well-known graphic novels.

“My work tended to be very short and very compact,” he said. “I was thinking of what would be a good long text to use, and as a joke I thought of the terms and conditions. They’re infamously long. And once that idea popped in my head I was very excited.”

He spoke about the appeal of adapting such an

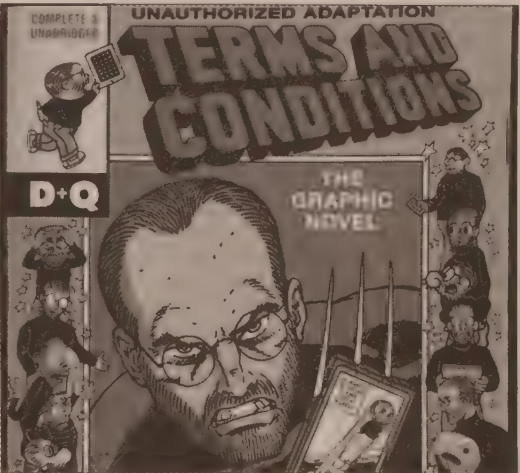
unapproachable text.

“I liked the idea of a text that wasn’t made to be adapted,” Sikoryak said. “I like adaptation, but I’m also a little suspicious of adaptation as a way to faithfully recreate a piece of literature. You always lose something in the translation.”

Although his previous adaptations followed one style throughout, Sikoryak said that he chose to vary each page as both a way to energize the reader and to create an homage to comic genre.

“I thought the only way to keep myself from going crazy and to keep interest in the reader would be to change the style, and every page was a natural way to break it up,” he said. “I wanted it to feel as big as the field of comics feels for me. I tried to represent different eras of comics. I tried to represent the different kinds of comics and also represent the different kinds of the storytelling that you could use in a comic.”

Although he cited several well-known comics as influences from his childhood, Sikoryak said that the project was more than just a tribute to them but that it was an homage to modern cartoonists who are taking the genre to new places. He spoke about how comics have changed during his nearly 30 years working in the industry, saying that he embraced the new direction (which I found refreshing as opposed to blaming the inter-



COURTESY OF JACOB TOOK
Terms and Conditions is the latest book by cartoonist R. Sikoryak.

net for killing the genre).

“Comics are in such an amazing position right now,” Sikoryak said. “There’s so many kinds of comics being made. We’re living in a golden age of comic creation, and I want to see what’s going to happen next. I’ve referenced a lot of artists who are younger than me and taking comics in new directions that I find really exciting.”

Sikoryak said that working with the text of the terms and conditions allowed him to comment on the new internet age of comics and the possibilities it stood for.

“I was trying to represent the internet in a certain way, and maybe even the iTunes store,” he said. “All of this stuff is available in a way that it wasn’t as a kid. Comics are this big world and anything is possible within it. The

vast amount of material can be overwhelming. I wanted the book to represent that infinite possibility and the infinite amount of material that’s in the world.”

In incorporating different styles, Sikoryak aimed to make the work accessible to a wider audience who might not have read as many comics. Many iconic characters are parodied, such as Sikoryak’s Steve Jobs, almost guaranteeing something familiar to the reader.

Atomic Books is hosting a signing by Sikoryak on Thursday where he will discuss his process further, explaining how he brought *Terms and Conditions* about. It will be a great opportunity to learn about the world of graphic novels from a master cartoonist and to pick up a signed copy of his new book to enjoy.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

What would your name be on *Flavor of Love*?Kyra Lesser
KIKI LEAKS

For those of you who have not heard of *Flavor of Love*, it's pretty much just *The Bachelor* with Flavor Flav and trashier women, and it ran for only three seasons.

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." The eternal bard William Shakespeare wrote these timeless words in his monumental play, "Romeo and Juliet." Now, what would a name be if you asked another prolific figure of American art and culture, say, William Drayton Jr. aka Flavor Flav?

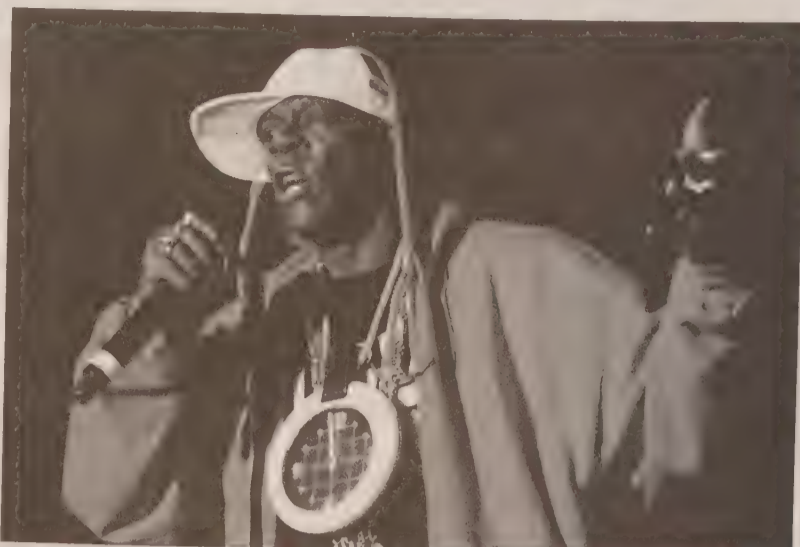
He would say, "Your man Flav, he is not good with names at all. So what I'm gonna attempt to do is give each one of you a nickname, so that way I can remember it, and the reason why I pick nicknames is because I knew I wouldn't remember their real names, and nicknames I might remember easier."

These words were uttered on the debut episode of Flav's smash-hit 2006 VH1 show, *Flavor of Love*.

For those of you who have not heard of Flavor Flav: For shame! Flavor Flav is one part of rap group Public Enemy and that's being generous. Many would argue that Chuck D is the driving force behind Public Enemy and Flav is just his overzealous hype man who yells out unnecessary ad-libs, but I'm saving that for another article. Let's figure out who you are, dear reader and who you are meant to become.

In the seminal episode of the first season entitled "Fifteen Beds and a Bucket of Puke," Flav asks all of his fine ladies to line up in front of a granite table behind a velvet rope. Adorned in a red velvet robe and matching gold sunglasses, Flav pulls out a peacock-feathered plume and scribbles out the destinies of 20 women's reality television careers forever.

Now, let's say reader that you had the golden opportunity of being a contestant on *Flavor of*



William Drayton Jr., better known as Flavor Flav, is a member of hit '90s hip hop group Public Enemy. ALTERNA2/CC-BY 2.0

Love. What would Flav name you?

Honestly, this could go a number of ways. One technique Flav uses to name his women is by identifying a particular physical feature. This could be a contestant with a big smile, beautiful eyes, even dimples. But the most popular feature Flav likes to pay honor to is the bum.

At least three contestants were given their name based off of their lovely cabooses. Some examples of contestants named off of physical traits include Smiley, Bootz, Bunz, Shore-Tee, Dimplez and Eye'z.

The next technique Flav likes to use to name his luscious ladies is by naming them after their place of origin. When the girls introduce themselves, nine times out of 10 they will run up to Flav yelling out the name of the city they are from.

Whether you just have a ton of hometown pride or maybe no other real standout features, this may be the route for you to pick. Contestants named after a city, state and even neighborhood include New York, Georgia, Bamma, Hood, H-Town, Myammee, St. Louis and Savanna.

Maybe you have a hobby that you are extremely fond of. If this is the case, let Flav know, and he will work it into his decision. This is what one contestant named Sarah did. Sarah, wearing a shirt with one of her paintings printed on it and addressing Flav as "Mr. Flavor," informs Flav that she is a painter.

Flav finds this tidbit quite interesting; In fact he gives a resounding

"slammin'!" to Sarah. Thus, she was given the name Picasso. Other examples include Prancer, Tiger and winner of season one (spoiler alert!) Hoopz.

So you're more of a foodie? No problem, Flav can handle it. But be careful, the odds of being a contestant named

after food and winning are not super high. Usually, being named after a food by Flav is a bad thing, consider-

ing there is no rhyme or reason usually as to why he believes this food applies to you.

This means that Flav finds you boring, so sorry about that. Past examples include Red Oyster, Peaches, Apples, Cherry, Chocolate, Grayvee and even Ice. But, in a shocking turn of events, if you are named after a word used to describe food, you have a much higher shot of winning your man's heart, as seen by Deelishis' victory in season two.

Now, what if you are just stuffed to the gills with personality? Maybe when you see Flav for

the first time, you start bouncing off the walls and screaming. Maybe you look down, cross your arms and smile to yourself. Trust me, Flav is noticing it all. Don't worry! Being named after a personality trait is a good thing. It's the first establishment of your reality television persona.

If someone sees that your name is Krazy, for example, your reputation in the reality television world is already pretty much out there. You are a crazy person. Past examples of contestants named after their personality traits include Shy, Sincere, Spunkee, Somethin', Payshintz, Buckwild, Serious and of course, Sweetie.

Are you feeling an absurd amount of pressure to find your birth certificate and burn it? Maybe you have a strong urge to run to the DMV and change your name on every single legal document about yourself that you can find? I understand. Flav will do that to you! Think of all the possibilities that your life could be with a name like Toastee or Bubblez.

But, let's not forget the most important part of all of this, and that's to be yourself. Flav wouldn't want it any other way...

For those of you who have not heard of Flavor Flav: For shame!

Future releases two new albums in two weeks

By EKLAVYA MEHTANI
For The News-Letter

Future has officially changed the rap game. He managed consistently to release multiple albums and mixtapes a year, and he's upped that benchmark by releasing two solid albums in the span of two weeks.

FUTURE spanning 17 songs and running 62:47 helps Future cement his status in the upper echelon of trap artists while paying homage to his old mixtape days. *HNDXXX*, also with 17 songs and running 68:59 really showcases

Future's growth as a storyteller as he gives us glimpses into his post-Ciara life. While also proving his growth as an artist as he raps over eclectic beats and showcases his whole range of talents.

FUTURE accomplished two main things. It was a platform on which he proved that his music is timeless as he can easily reintroduce his old sound today and have instant melodic bangers.

The shots aren't direct, nor are any names mentioned, but subliminal shots are fired. The first song that really gets your head bumping is

"Zoom," with its out-of-left-field beat, quick one-liners and simple, fantastic hook, money machine. The real purpose of this song is to take shots at Designer. Future imitates Designer's trademark gunshot noises on the song.

"Super Trapper" accomplished exactly what it was meant to. The gloves come off, a simple snare supplies a majority of the beat, and the words just flow. The skills are there, and this song highlights them perfectly.

The harmonic beat of "Draco" instantly catches your ear and lets you vibe with the song. Don't get fooled by the easy listening beat, this song is one long shot at Soulja Boy aka "lil Draco."

"Poppin' Tags" is a clear shot at Migos as he copies their style. "Mask Off" is the first time Future takes a break from his relentless assault on today's new rappers to remind us how he really got big — selling molly and Percocet.

It's unapologetic and honestly the most truthful thing he's ever put out — or it could just be I'm drawn to that because of my love for Kid Cudi.

On "I'm So Groovy," Future raps "I am Pluto"

and takes us back to his Pluto mixtape days with melodic beats and harmonious auto tune singing thrown in.

His last song on this album, "Feds Did A Sweep," is uniquely grounded in reality, with Future emphasizing "You gotta understand what I represent..." It serves as a perfect preamble for the next album he would drop in seven days.

HNDXXX starts off with Future Hendrix reminiscing about his lost love, lamenting that even if they never talked again after, they had been part of his collection. Future has never shied away from potentially misogynistic lyrics; Why would he start now? He also doesn't shy away from rapping over completely different styles of beats.

The first couple songs of the album blend together, but Future flexes his lyrical chops by completely changing up his flows on the trio of songs "Incredible," "Testify," and "Fresh Air."

These songs are a clear departure from the beginnings of this album, as Future turns the focus of the album to himself, rapping about a new change of

pace. *HNDXXX* pays homage to *FUTURE* as "Neva Missa Lost" serves as a clear continuation of "Feds Did A Sweep", with Future talking about memories he will never forget.

Far and away the best song on the album was "Selfish," featuring Rihanna. Future and Rihanna play off of each other perfectly with the song sounding more like a love song than a harmonious rap song. It's a song I didn't know the world needed until I heard it.

Working with Drake has clearly influenced Future's growth as an artist. After using *FUTURE* as a platform to reintroduce himself to the new blood in the game and taking shots at them, he used *HNDXXX* as his version of Drake's *Take Care* lamenting about girls and laying out his future plans to dominate the game.

Out of the two albums released, there is no clear winner. They are both solid albums, with clear messages and themes but neither of them are doing anything more than adding to Future's already sizeable list of solid yet non-game changing albums.

Arts Writers
Playlist

By The Arts Section

1. "Make Love"
by Nicki Minaj feat.
Gucci Mane (Jacob Took)

2. "Green Light" by Lorde
(Katherine Logan)

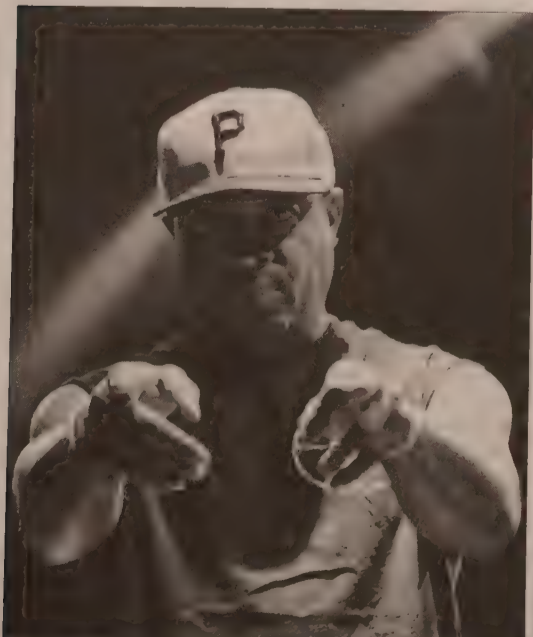
3. "Welcome 2 Tha Nolia"
by Juvenile
(Will Kirsch)

4. "Bring Me to Life"
by Evanescence
(Took, Logan, Kirsch)

5. "They Put A Body in the Bayou" by The Orwells
(Logan)

6. "Meticulous Bird"
by Thao & the Get Down
Stay Down
(Logan)

7. "Run the World (Girls)"
by Beyoncé
(Took)

JASON PERSSE/CC-BY-SA-2.0
Public Enemy, led by Chuck D released their 13th album in June 2015.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dirty Projectors experiments with new album



ANGELA N/CC-BY-2.0
Dirty Projectors is the latest release by NYC's Dirty Projectors.

By NIKITA SHTARKMAN
For The News-Letter

Dirty Projectors are an indie rock band headed by singer-songwriter David Longstreth. In the group's latest, self-titled project, Longstreth explores his recent heartbreak with former bandmate Amber Coffman. Longstreth takes the listener on a textured, winding, emotional journey across the reaction to heartbreak and the acceptance of love lost.

This is a powerful project with some great songs. Its experimental nature is both its greatest characteristic and it's biggest detractor. Nonetheless, this is a piece worth listening to and thinking about.

"Keep Your Name" is a phenomenal opener. The chiming bells that fade into a tinkling piano and a distorted, crooning baritone voice show the concept of the album, an album that mixes the traditional with the modern to create this multifaceted, multi-genre response to a universal emotion. Unfortunately, near the middle of the song, it breaks into this medley of rap and electronica that although interesting, is just aesthetically unpleasant.

This is basically the story of the whole project. *Dirty Projectors* plays with some great melodies

and some very exciting and interesting ideas but sometimes the big steps can be uncomfortable and imperfect.

For example, the song "Work Together" has some beautiful interplay between strings, synths and auto tuned high voice trills. Nevertheless, parts of the song are just cacophonous and feel rushed.

The beginning is this rush of harmonica sounds, electronically altered vocals and buzzing. It hurts to listen to, but the resolution in piano trills and organ chords is so sweet as to make up for the horror that came before. One can argue that the cacophony serves to develop the tension that Longstreth seems to be gunning for, the kind of adrenaline rush that comes with post-heartbreak life, but there is too much in some parts and it can be hard to listen to.

It is commendable how well Longstreth switches styles throughout the album. Each song is absolutely unique. He can go from a sorrowful ballad, to an angry, crazed pop

song, to even a reggae-inspired piece helped by Solange. "Little Bubble," this quiet ballad formed by wavering vocals and long chords, is followed by "Winner Take Nothing," a quick, marimba-backed tropical song with a heavily electronic backing (some of the instruments sound like dubstep synths).

Throughout the project, the instrumentation is quite beautiful. I think that this is one of the best new albums, in the vein of Bon Iver's *22, A Million*, to mix the rural beauty of traditional folk/indie with the experimental, exciting power of electronica. It is a flawless combination of synthetic instruments with strings, pianos and organs. This is a style of music that deserves to be explored more since the results are so dynamic.

One of my major gripes with the project are the lyrics. I wish they were more light, airy or complex. There's something about singing that requires an abstraction that isn't necessary in other forms of music.

For example, it feels weird to hear someone sing the lines: "and we both had girlfriends blowing up our SMS." It's just too literal of a line, along with most of the rest of the songs. They simply tell the story as it went.

Perhaps the literal nature reminds me of bards and limericks, or maybe even greek odes read out loud in a sing song voice, which puts me off. Nonetheless, there is something about the complete honesty and straightforwardness of the lyricism that bothers me when listening to such an experimental, free-

form project.

There's also something weird about writing an album as a band about a band member who just recently departed. It feels petty in some way. You feel like you're reading someone's personal letter they wrote before tearing it up and letting it fall into the fireplace. While I am put off by it, part of me thinks that that's actually part of the appeal.

That awkwardness that I'm writing about right now as a fault is actually the greatest draw, quenching the fundamental human curiosity that leads us to press our prying ears up to locked doors or to peek down at people's phones when they get texts.

Anyway, this is only a minor thing that I was considering while listening through. After a few listens, I stopped paying as much attention, but it was worth mentioning. The resolution of the album is so satisfying that it is easy to forget any of the gripes you have with the project.

After eight songs building up this electric, emotional tension, there is this kind of breath and release with the last song, "I See You." It feels like the pop of an emotionally charged bubble, a draft of sweet air, a resolution to the knot that is built through the project. The beeps and twinkles of electronic glitches fade out, leaving only the swoosh of chords and Longstreth's sweet croon.

I want people to listen to this. Go listen to it after some emotional turmoil. Or just listen to it as a curious voyeur of the effects of a harsh break up. Or maybe listen to it just as an example of what the future of indie/R&B/electronica seems to be — this crazy, exciting uni-genre that links aspects from all of the sources. *Dirty Projectors* is a more constructed, more structured version of *808s and Heartbreak* and it's great.

Dirty Projectors is a more constructed, more structured version of 808s and Heartbreak.

HBO's Big Little Lies makes strong start



EVA RINALDI/CC-BY-SA-2.0
Nicole Kidman plays Celeste Wright in HBO's drama Big Little Lies.

BIG LITTLE LIES, FROM B3
York Magazine, a woman grappling with her ex-husband's continued role in her and her new husband's daily life as well as her teenage daughter's growing resentment towards her. Quickly, intervening on the behalf of Jane and Ziggy becomes her pet-project.

Our somewhat-sympathetic antagonist is Renata Klein (Laura Dern), a career woman with a powerful position in the community who just wants to protect her daughter, yet is isolated from the other mothers who cannot relate to her decision to continue working rather than stay at home.

Then, last but not least, there's Celeste Wright (Nicole Kidman), Madeline's closest confidante. From the outside looking in, she has the perfect life, the beautiful children, the young, sexy husband, Perry (Alexander Skarsgård), the beautiful, picturesque home and the family that comes with it. Yet, something much more sinister lingers just beneath the surface. By the end of the first episode, we know someone within this circle has died. The rest, the victim and whodunnit, remains a mystery.

Long before she was nominated for *The Descendants* or starred in *The Fault In Our Stars*, I held the belief that Shailene Woodley was an underrated actress. Yes, that means I stuck with *The Secret Life of The American Teenager* long past its glory days (if those even existed).

More than any role she's ever taken on, this one feels perfectly tailored to her skills. She's the perfect balance of beautiful and approachable to make it plausible to us as viewers that Jane can feel alternately out of place and accepted in the Monterey community. Each moment she flashes before our eyes, we're rooting for her.

From a feminist standpoint, *Big Little Lies'* approach to what intimate partner violence can look like is refreshingly honest. What sometimes serves as a barrier for some people to sympathize with real life victims is the idea that it should be obvious when you're getting into a relationship (specially when you're married to someone) whether or not you're potentially putting yourself at risk. In other words, that it should be written across the forehead of the person you're with if they're a rapist, violent, abusive, etc.

Clearly, Celeste didn't know this side of Perry existed, and we can empathize with that because we see the shock, pain and disillusionment on her face when he takes out his insecurities and anger on her. Another aspect of this delicate subject that I think the show handles deftly is the idea of why people stay. It's easy for others to look at someone in a toxic relationship and question why they would continue to go back to someone who has hurt them.

But we, as the audience, get a deeper glimpse of Celeste's options each episode. We see that Perry is always contrite afterwards; He's gentlemanly even. We watch her two kids play Nerf with him. We can begin to imagine the deeply embedded pain that tearing her family apart and permanently altering her children's perspective of their father would awaken in Celeste, even if in doing so she would be saving herself.

So if you're looking for a new not-so-guilty pleasure, *Big Little Lies* promises suspense and sexual tension, while still probing at deeper, thought-provoking questions about the human condition. Also after the first episode, you'll definitely be daydreaming of living in the gorgeous, beachside homes inhabited by these characters.

Seriously, never before have fireplaces been so gorgeously shot in and of themselves. Of course, much of the credit for the continuity of the mood of throughout all of the aspects of the show is due to the work of director Jean-Marc Vallée (another frequent collaborator of Witherspoon's), whose aesthetic and visual styles coalesce beautifully with the nature of the show.

As a fan of the book, I can honestly say *Big Little Lies* ranks among the best page-to-screen translations I have had the luxury of watching, and I could not recommend it more highly.

Gotham successfully mixes drama and action

GOTHAM, FROM B3
progresses, he uncovers a dark, psychotic part of himself that he struggles to suppress. This battle is quite affectingly portrayed on-screen and puts Nygma on the path to becoming The Riddler.

Gotham's quasi-Joker Jerome Valeska is introduced late in season one as a carnie kid whose mother is murdered when the circus comes to town. Though seemingly innocent, his true sociopathic nature is soon revealed and is chillingly portrayed by Cameron Monaghan. He is depicted

as a Joker-like character who later inspires a band of crazy followers. Whether it is Valeska or one of his disciples who will go on to become The Joker is a card the showrunners are purposefully holding close to their chests.

The Kids: Selina and Young Master B, as butler and legal guardian Alfred (Sean Pertwee) calls him, offer an adorable storyline that will make you the most invested you've been in a teen relationship since your Disney Channel days. But the show by no means shies away

from Bruce's devastation at being orphaned and his transformative mission to avenge them nor Selina's complicated psyche that makes her fierce, closed-off, vulnerable, loving, protective and harsh all at the same time.

The Cop Bromance: Gotham introduces Jim Gordon (Ben McKenzie), who is the GCPD Commissioner in Batman's time, as a rookie detective with high hopes of cleaning up the city and the corrupt precinct.

Paired with veteran Harvey Bullock (Donal

Logue), who's determined to not interfere with the criminal underground, Gordon jumps at the chance to prove himself by solving the Wayne murders but soon discovers that operating inside the law may not be as easy or effective as he'd initially envisioned. However, Gordon also inspires Bullock to kind of meet him halfway, and the two eventually form one of the show's most heartwarming bonds.

Gotham returns Monday, April 24 with the final eight episodes of its third season.

Wu-Tang Clan uses classic martial arts films for samples

WU-TANG, FROM B3
on walls and flying. Wu-Tang Clan fans will recognize some of the dialogue from quite a few songs, most notably "Da Mystery of Chessboxin'" ("Toad style is immensely strong and immune to nearly any weapon") and "Snakes" off of *Ol Dirty Bastard's Return to the 36 Chambers: The Dirty Version*. In case you were wondering, yes, I am listening to *Enter the Wu-*

Tang as I write this.

3. Kid with the Golden Arm (1979):

"I'm the kid with the golden arms," so sayeth the rapper U-God on "Gravel Pit." *Kid with the Golden Arm* might sound like a weird name for a kung-fu movie and it is. However, the movie is not about a pre-teen with some sort of King Midas-style extremity. Once

again starring the Venom Mob, this film follows a government agent as he attempts to transport gold through a fending province while starving off the notorious Chi Sha gang.

The gang is led by four men, Golden Arm, Silver Spear, Iron Robe and Brass Head. Naturally, those names all correspond to different fighting styles and I am happy to relate that Brass Head ramming people with his special

helmet is accompanied by the sound of a whizzing bullet. This movie is a particularly brutal one and the majority of the characters are killed, but it is also arguably the most gaudy of the three.

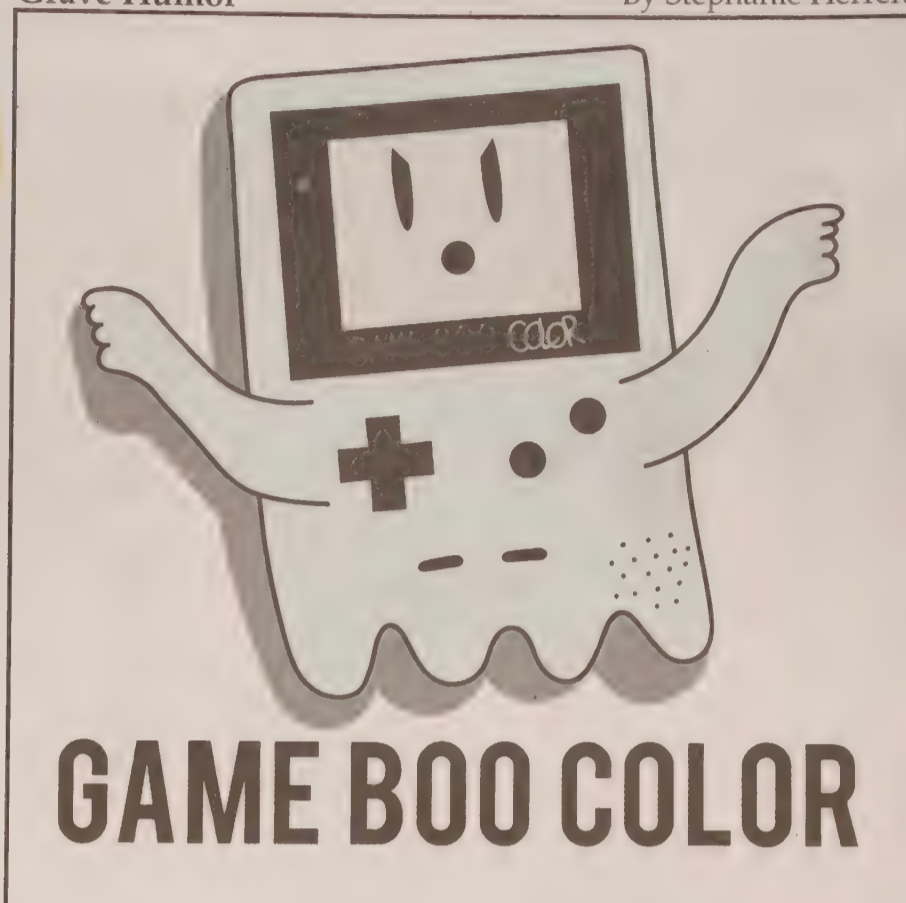
I would encourage you to look at some of the other Shaw Brothers movies because there is a truly insane amount of them and they all exist on the same plane of greatness. These three are my particular

favorites because they embody the ridiculous and immoderate action movies that were popular during the mid-to-late 20th century. Not only that, but there is an extreme pleasure in watching these movies and recognizing samples from Wu-Tang songs. That recognition almost always results in one reciting the entirety of "Da Mystery of Chessboxin'" while actors on fish wire fly across your TV screen.

CARTOONS, ETC.

Grave Humor

By Stephanie Herrera



Hey There Kids!

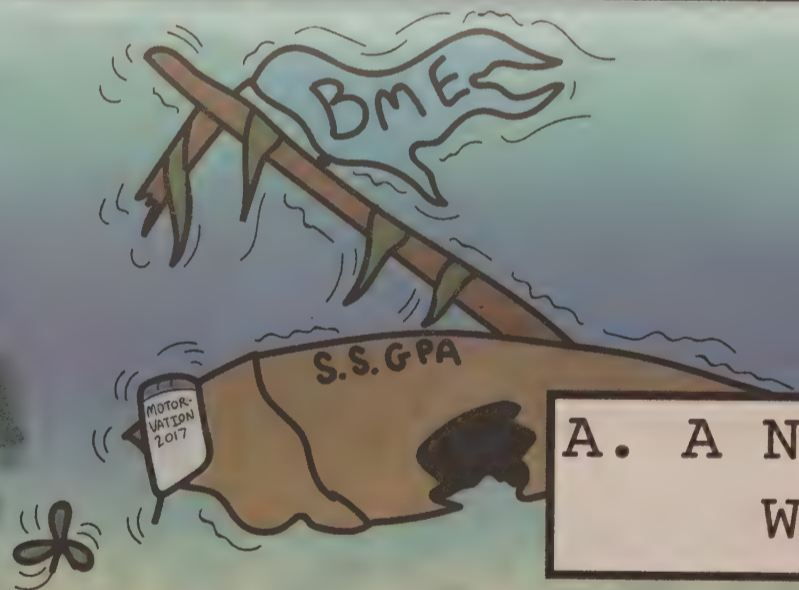
By Stephanie Herrera

100%

DAD JOKES

"A Vintage Nantage"

Q. What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches?



A. A Nervous Wreck!



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Outdoor air pollution tied to premature births



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Scientists have identified the decline in outdoor air quality as a risk factor for premature births.

By ANNA CHEN
For The News-Letter

Air pollution has been a critical global issue for decades. Harmful emissions contribute to environmentally damaging natural phenomena like acid rain, changes in the pH level of oceans, rises in sea levels and more. However nature and wildlife are not the only victims of pollution. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) the risk of stroke, heart disease, lung cancer and chronic and acute respiratory diseases including asthma has increased with the decline of air quality, especially in cities. In a recent study by the University of York, outdoor pollution has

been linked to millions of premature births (less than 37 weeks of gestation) annually. Published in the journal *Environment International* and led by a team of researchers from The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the study shows that 2.7 million premature births, about 18 percent of all premature births globally, are associated with exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) outdoors. There are many factors that can cause premature births, including the mother's age, potential illnesses, income level and other physiological and social factors. With this new study scientists have for the first time quantified the global impact of air pollution on premature births

by combining data about air pollution in different countries with knowledge about how different levels of air pollution can be associated with premature birth rates. According to the WHO's latest urban air quality database, more than 80 percent of people living in urban areas are exposed to air pollution levels that exceed WHO recommended health limits. In developing countries 98 percent of cities with over 100,000 residents do not meet WHO air quality guidelines. Although awareness of air pollution levels and the associated health impacts have increased throughout the years, air pollution continues to heavily impact human health.

"Air pollution may not just harm people who are breathing the air directly; It may also seriously affect a baby in its mother's womb," Chris Malley, researcher at the SEI, said. It is also important to note that premature births associated with air pollution exposure not only harm the possibility of the infants' survival, but also may have life-long health effects on its survivors. These premature births have been tied to increased risks for long-term physical and neurological disabilities. The greatest number of PM2.5-associated premature births occur in South and East Asia, which to-

gether contribute to approximately 75 percent of the total worldwide. By itself India accounts for about one million of the 2.7 million total, and another 500,000 are from China. Western sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East area also had high numbers, but most of the air pollution in those regions is associated with desert dust instead of industrial emissions. Unfortunately there are many confounding factors that contribute to uncertainties in these estimates. Since they were based on studies in the United States and Europe and then generalized to fit global numbers, these results do not account for different sources of harmful particulate matter that may be present in developing countries but not in first-world countries. For example, diesel vehicles, pollution emitted when agricultural residues are burned in fields and high levels of smoke and indoor pollution resulting from cooking with biomass fuels are not taken into account in the 2.7 million global estimate. Because of this, scientists believe that the number of premature births due to air pollution could be much greater than this study suggests. Although the exact number may be an estimate, scientists are certain that pollution in the air we breathe has significant impacts on millions of premature births per year. This new knowledge has important implications concerning mitigation methods for premature births as well as infant mortality and physical and mental disabilities. It stresses the importance of air pollution control on the health of not only the current but also of future generations.

Weight-loss drug reduces diabetes risk

By SHERRY SIMKOVIC
Staff Writer

Scientists at the Imperial College London recently discovered that, by repurposing a drug typically used for weight loss, they could reduce the risk of Type 2 diabetes by 80 percent. In previous experiments the weight loss drug, Saxenda, generically called liraglutide, reduced body weight after a 56-week period of this trial. Eighty-six million adults aged 20 years and older have prediabetes, one of two precursors of Type 2 diabetes. In 2014, over 600 million adults were obese, the other precursor of Type 2 diabetes. Type 2 diabetes results from the body's inability to use the insulin it's producing. Almost everyone who develops Type 2 diabetes initially suffers from prediabetes. Liraglutide acts as a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) to lower glucagon levels in the body and increase stimulation of insulin, thus decreasing blood sugar levels. People take liraglutide as a once-daily injection designed to promote weight loss through reduced appetite and energy intake. In the study, the researchers attempted to discern the effects of liraglutide on overweight people suffering from prediabetes over a three-year period, from June 2011 to March 2015. The research team performed the study at 191 clinical research sites in 27 countries in Europe, South America, Asia, Africa and Australia. After 56 weeks of liraglutide use, overweight study participants remained

on the drug for another two years. In a two-to-one ratio the team randomly assigned 2,254 participants, all of whom had a body-mass index of at least 27 kg/m², to continue receiving liraglutide or a placebo, 1505 participants and 745 participants respectively. The researchers further categorized participants into groups depending on their BMIs and whether or not they had prediabetes. Those participants who had participated in the previous 56-week trial and had prediabetes continued on in this study, making for a total of 160 weeks of treatment. The starting dosage for liraglutide was 0.6 milligrams. It was increased in weekly increments by 0.6 milligrams, eventually up to 3 milligrams. All of the participants received weekly lifestyle counseling throughout the study and were each advised to achieve at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week and to reduce their daily calorie intake by 500 calories. Of the original 1,505 participants who received the drug, only 791 participants made it to the end of the 160-week period. Of 745 placebo patients, 337 remained for the entirety of the study. Throughout the study participants withdrew from the study for a variety of reasons including not seeing results and negative side effects. More participants in the liraglutide group left the study because of side effects. Most participants who withdrew from the liraglutide experiment

SEE DIABETES, PAGE B9

DNA editing in mice helps prevent blindness

By CATHY NIE
Staff Writer

Using a revolutionary genome editing tool titled CRISPR-Cas9 in mice, scientists at the Institute for Basic Science's Center for Genome Engineering have developed a less invasive treatment for preventing blindness. CRISPR-Cas9 is used to edit DNA by adding, removing or altering parts of the DNA sequence. In this process scientists identify a portion of the DNA they wish to alter. They then design a guide RNA (gRNA) sequence of approximately 20 nucleotide bases that are complementary to the bases at the location of

interest. The gRNA then binds to that section of DNA and "guides" Cas9, an enzyme, to the pre-designated area. This Cas9 enzyme can then cleave the double-stranded DNA, allowing DNA to be added or removed at this location. The cell will then naturally attempt to repair the cut DNA, effectively "closing" the cut and rejoining strands together. Due to CRISPR-Cas9's ability to directly modify genes, it is typically used to correct mutations responsible for hereditary diseases. However scientists in the Center for Genome Engineering study have harnessed its power to

SEE BLIND PAGE B9



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Genome editing in mice has shown promise in treating blindness.

Dolphin gene mapping sheds light on human genes

By ELAINE CHIAO
Staff Writer

The common stereotype for dolphins is that they are a species of highly intelligent creatures. Dolphins are often portrayed in a heroic fashion in popular culture, saving humans in situations that require strength and stamina to overcome. Recent breakthroughs in research suggest that dolphins can help humans in another area: the human genome database. Researchers leading a project at the Hollings Marine Laboratory located in Charleston, S.C. have discovered that the proteins found in the bottlenose dolphin genome have the potential significantly to improve the quality of the current human genome database used around the world. Ben Neely, a member of the Marine Biochemical Sciences Group, is currently the leader of the new project taking place at the Hollings Marine Laboratory. The project also works in close collaboration with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

"Dolphins and humans are very, very similar creatures. As mammals, we share a number of proteins, and our bodies function in many similar ways, even though we are terrestrial and dolphins live in the water all their lives," Neely said, in a press release. Neely and his team collected a list of all the proteins they found in the bottlenose dolphin. These proteins contribute to the overall data collection of the genome, which is essentially the entire set of genetic material for a given organism. Although the extensive genetic map of the bottlenose dolphin was technically first created in 2008, the research published by Neely and his team made scien-



SHEILAPIC/CC-BY-2.0
Proteins found in the bottlenose dolphin genome can improve the human genome database.

tists further aware of a more holistic dimension of the dolphin genome. It was also the first successful attempt at outlining a complete dolphin genome. Many other companies and organizations were either directly or indirectly involved in this genome project, such as the private, U.S.-based companies like Dovetail Genomics and the National Center for Biotechnology Information at the National Library of Medicine (NCBI).

Dovetail Genomics was initially in charge of the process of genetic sequencing of the data. Afterwards, the products that came out of genetic sequencing were taken to the NCBI for official data generation. Identifying the specific proteins found in an organism is a crucial step in every genome creation because it allows researchers to investigate the details of a given biological system in more depth.

SEE DOLPHIN, PAGE B8

Wrap up: the latest in technology...

By WILLIAM XIE
Staff Writer

Bitcoins Hit Gold

Bitcoins are a relatively new currency, originating in 2009. The coins are digitally traded providing anonymity and the absence of regulations. The Bitcoin isn't backed by any tangible institution or market, leaving the confidence in its value to its perceived value. The small market size for the Bitcoin yields greater volatility of the currency.

In mid-2015, the bitcoin saw a dramatic drop in value, about \$200 a unit. Since then, its value has gradually increased. This Thursday, the Bitcoin has exceeded the value of an ounce of gold. The market closed with the Bitcoin valued at \$1,268 and an ounce of gold closed at \$1,233. This increase in value may indicate the current growing stability of the digital currency.

Amazon's \$150 Million Typo

Amazon attributed a simple typo to the temporary collapse of major websites and services earlier this week. Amazon offers cloud computing services such as the Amazon Web Service (AWS) which serves about 150,000 websites.

While trying to debug the servers, an engineer entered an incorrect command and removed a large set of the server. Many sites hosted by the AWS remained offline, specifically those in the Northern Virginia region. The outage cost companies in the S&P 500 index \$150 million, according to Cyence Inc.

Snapchat's Stock Continues to Increase

Snap, the parent company of the popular social messaging app Snapchat, saw soaring stock prices after its debut on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). Investors valued the stock to be \$17 per share. Snap's stock was up 44 percent over its initial public offering (IPO) price.

On Friday, the stock jumped higher than \$29 per share with a high market value of around \$40 billion. On the same day, NBCUniversal invested \$500 million in Snap's IPO which increased 11 percent for the day.

U.S. to Suspend Fast Processing of Visas for Skilled Workers

Influenced by the Trump administration, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) announced on Friday that it will suspend the H-1B visa which allows U.S. companies to employ foreign graduate level workers. The premium processing of visas for skilled workers will take effect on April 3 for up to six months.

The expedited visa takes only 15 days for approval compared to the regular process which takes months. The removal of the H-1B will hit the tech companies of the U.S. the hardest, since they commonly hire foreign workers through this service.

Scientists develop an artificial pancreas



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The artificial pancreas would replace traditional finger-stick methods.

By RACHEL HUANG
For The News-Letter

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the artificial pancreas late last year. This device, also known as the MiniMed 670G hybrid closed looped system, will hopefully replace the finger-stick method and other insulin-delivery methods. The artificial pancreas automatically monitors the body's glucose levels and adjusts the dose of insulin delivered with little input from the patient.

In mid-February, the artificial pancreas proceeded to international clinical trials. According to the *Yale Medical Review*, these studies will begin as four projects throughout 2017-2018 at sites scattered in the U.S., France, Germany, Holland, Israel, Italy, Slovenia and the United Kingdom.

The creators of the MiniMed 670G hybrid system are waiting to release this artificial pancreas

"Children and adults like me who live with Type 1 diabetes need to be mathematicians, physicians... and dieticians."

— MARY TYLER MOORE,
FORMER INTERNATIONAL
CHAIRMAN OF JDRF

insulin, a hormone secreted by the pancreas to help transport glucose into cells for energy, due to the destruction of the beta cells in the pancreas.

According to the American Diabetes Association, approximately 1.25 million American children and adults have T1D, which can strike at any age, causing them to rely on injected or pumped insulin for life.

Currently, blood-glucose levels are monitored with the finger-stick method where T1D patients must prick their fingers four to eight times a day. Then, if needed, insulin is injected under the skin into fatty tissue where it is absorbed into the bloodstream and carried throughout the body.

The late actress Mary Tyler Moore, who served as International Chairman of JDRF (formerly Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) prior to her death last month, described the difficulties of living with the disease.

"Both children and adults like me who live with Type 1 diabetes need to be mathematicians, physicians, personal trainers and dietitians all

rolled into one," she wrote in a testimonial on a JDRF fact sheet. "We need to be constantly factoring and adjusting, making frequent finger sticks to check blood sugars and giving ourselves multiple daily insulin injections just to stay alive."

With the help of the artificial pancreas and its automated monitors and insulin-administrators, those living with T1D could have the opportunity to experience life without constant finger sticks and manual insulin injections.

The closed looped system is made up of a continuous glucose monitor (CGM), an insulin pump and a control algorithm device.

The continuous glucose monitor — a sensor placed under the skin — provides information about the patient's glucose levels taken every five minutes. This information is then sent to the control algorithm device (computer or smartphone) where calculations are made and dosage amounts are sent to the insulin pump to deliver or withhold insulin.

The newest model, the Medtronic MiniMed 670G system, is made to continuously deliver insulin at user selectable rates and amounts. The new CGM — the Guardian Sensor 3 and the Guardian Link 3 Transmitter — is updated with diagnostic abilities to monitor the sensor itself, reinforcing the accuracy and performance of the artificial pancreas.

The MiniMed 670G hybrid system is an automated system that allows users to adjust insulin delivery before eating and before exercising. This system is able to sense an increase in glucose level and is able to adjust insulin dosage accordingly. It differs from previous models because it automatically targets a blood glucose of 120 mg/dl, which is especially essential at night.

Further research is in effect at the University of Cambridge in England for an artificial pancreas designed for youths six to eighteen years old with T1D, and research at the University of Virginia is focusing on a fully automated insulin administering system called InControl.

Long-term stress leads to higher obesity risk

By ISAAC CHEN
For The News-Letter

Feeling stressed in the midst of midterm season, you may find it particularly hard to resist the mouth-watering bag of chips or chocolate bar lying quietly next to your desk. Just one bite, the brain thinks as the hand reaches out. After the first bite, all the cells in your mouth light up in joy. Without realizing, the snack disappears in a blink of an eye.

According to a recent study, published in the journal *Obesity*, a group of researchers associated long-term exposure to high levels of cortisol, the stress hormone, with obesity. This research involved over 2000 men and women in England at least 50 years old and lasted for over four years.

The World Health Organization (WHO) states that obesity has doubled worldwide since 1980 and the majority of the world population lives in countries where being overweight or obese leads to more deaths

than being underweight does.

There have been several studies conducted in search of the link between obesity and cortisol. However, the majority of those studies relied on measurements taken from the saliva or urine. Although these assessments can accurately determine cortisol levels at specific times, they do not capture cortisol concentrations over long periods of time.

Due to this disadvantage, many studies have yielded conflicting results. Some studies reported that stressed people tend to eat more, while others say that people eat less under acute stress. Recently, using hair to measure long-term cortisol levels is becoming more popular. It is known that scalp hair grows, on average, one centimeter each month.

"Hair cortisol is a relatively new measure which offers a suitable and easily obtainable method for assessing chronically high levels of cortisol concentrations in weight research

and may therefore aid in further advancing understanding in this area," Sarah Jackson, researcher at the University College London, said.

During the experimental process, the researchers collected hair at least two centimeters in length and 10 milligrams in weight. The hair was cut as close to the scalp as possible in order to accurately capture the cortisol accumulation over a two-month period. On top of that, data of the subject's body mass index (BMI), weight and waist circumference were also measured.

Jackson and her research group wrote in their article that hair cortisol level is correlated with body weight, BMI and waist circumference, and that higher levels of cortisol were associated with being more overweight.

"These results provide consistent evidence that chronic stress is associated with higher levels of obesity," Jackson said. "People who had higher hair cortisol levels also

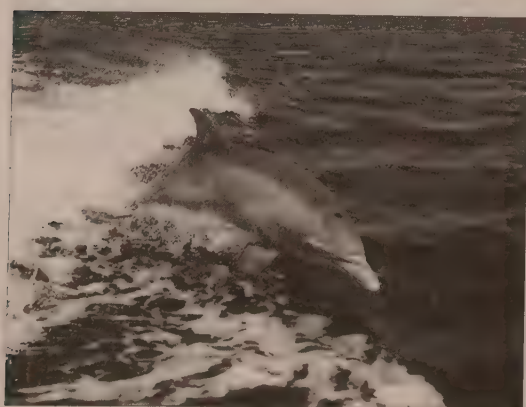
tended to have larger waist measurements, which is important because carrying excess fat around the abdomen is a risk factor for diabetes and premature death."

The team proposes that the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, which regulates cortisol levels, could be responsible for the development of obesity. Cortisol plays a broad range of roles in the human body, including glucose metabolism and anti-inflammatory responses.

Despite the numerous strengths of this study, such as the large sample number and use of hair to assess cortisol levels, there are limitations as well. The data from this study were collected from an older population with an average age of 69.72 instead of a younger population, which could have different cortisol levels.

This study also cannot provide evidence to explain whether elevated levels of cortisol are a cause or consequence of obesity.

Dolphin DNA provides model for human genome



PUBLIC DOMAIN

DNA from dolphins may be used to study some human diseases.

FROM DOLPHIN B7

In fact, Neely studies what is known as proteomics, which is a gradually emerging field in scientific research that have a lot of similarities

to genomics.

The major difference between the fields of proteomics and genomics is that genomics solely deals with the genetic aspect of an organism while pro-

teomics refers to the entire set of protein coded by the genome of an organism.

Dolphin proteomics tells researchers a lot more than what one would expect. Researchers often compare proteins found in humans to those found in other mammals due to the amount of overlapping and similarities.

Often, new biological discoveries made in other mammalian species can lead to the development of more precise and more effective treatments for common medical problems in humans.

In order to gather sufficient protein samples, Neely's team mainly investigates specimens

provided by the National Marine Mammal Tissue Bank. With the aid of high resolution mass spectrometers and improved biomedical technologies, it is now easier for researchers to re-map previously obscured genomes.

"With abundant genomic resources it is now possible to study non-model organisms with similar molecular machinery in order to tackle difficult biomedical problems," Neely said.

He has made the data collected by his team open to the public so that other researchers can potentially use these analytical tools to further the knowledge in the realm of proteomics.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Interactive apps lead to healthier lifestyles



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Apps that had an interactive component reduced health risk the most.

By RAYYAN JOKHAI
Staff Writer

In a recent study conducted by the Media Effects Research Laboratory at Pennsylvania State University, people who were subject to back-and-forth interaction with an online health risk assessment website were more inclined to participate in healthier activities the website suggested.

"This shows that delivering information on health risks through dialogue can help users get engaged with the tool and may positively affect their health," S. Shyam Sundar, professor of Communications and co-director of the lab said. "In general, it speaks to the design of interactive delivery of health information that is not only engaging, but also inspiring."

The study was published in the recent issue of *Human Communication Research* and suggests that when intertwined and presented with related questions, participants experience a feeling of immediacy and relevancy.

"When you are having this back and forth interaction with a system — you are having a conversation with that system," Sundar said. "We think that interactivity has been achieved when the system's output is contingent on the user's input in a continuous threaded way."

Although the results are promising, the study has unveiled some cautions that such interactive websites and apps should take when communicating with patients. More specifically, a more conversational, informal tone may cause users to feel less susceptible to health risks such as obesity, heart diseases and diabetes.

The study screened for particular phrases that trigger such mentality, and found that "Mm-hmm" and "Go on" incite behavior and thoughts that make users falsely think they are less susceptible to these malevolent conditions.

The researchers of the study suggest that this type of constant back-and-forth communication could ease the frustration from which many patients have been

suffering as face-to-face interaction with doctors has steadily declined.

Patients may be more open to trying online health assessments and applications, since in 2012, a poll conducted by National Public Radio (NPR) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation at the Harvard School of Public Health, found that 61 percent of people stated that they were unhappy with the amount of time their doctor spent with them.

"We are seeing a growth in e-medicine. People are trying to compensate for this lack of face-to-face time with doctors by using online tools, which are becoming increasingly conversational," Sundar said.

A promising conclusion from the study is that effective electronic health tools and communication does not have to be highly sophisticated.

"A simple instant-message-like feature that enables a dialogue between the user and the system is sufficient to evoke rich perceptions of interactivity, which, in turn, could favorably influence health behaviors and attitudes. Therein lies the power of interactive health tools," Sundar said.

To conduct the study, researchers enlisted 172 undergraduate students, each of whom was assigned to one of six health risk assessment websites. With each pairing of student and website, the variables manipulated were level of interactivity (low, medium or high) and with either conversational or non-conversational tone.

The low interactivity site included no visual cues that an ongoing communication was occurring. The medium interactivity site had a simple "your response" box, and the high interactivity website included phrases such as "previously, you mentioned." Websites with conversational tones added in casual phrases to the ongoing communication.

From the manipulation of these variables and the answers that students gave, the researchers were able to conclude that high interactivity communication that was not overly conversational was most effective.

Changes in gut biome can identify Parkinson's

By AVERY GULINO
For The News-Letter

There are up to five pounds of bacteria living inside of every person right now, and according to scientists at the University of Alabama, that's actually a good thing. In fact, microbes outnumber our human cells ten to one. Until recently, this system was largely overlooked. Now we know that the gut microbiome widely affects us, causing health issues like inflammatory bowel disease, obesity, food allergies, diabetes or asthma.

Our gut can also go as far as to affect our mental health; Studies have shown that certain microbes can be linked to autism. Clearly, the effects of this tremendous system can no longer be undervalued. Recently, scientists at the University of Alabama at Birmingham have found yet another disease that is related to the gut microbiome: Parkinson's disease.

Parkinson's disease affects the neurons of the brain, causing issues with movement, balance and coordination. One other, lesser-known side effect is that Parkinson's disease often also starts with gastrointestinal symptoms, an immediate sign that the disease is related to the intestines. What this study primarily found was that there was a marked difference in the gut microbiomes of people with Parkinson's disease when compared to people without the disease.

The results showed certain species of bacteria in the microbiome were increased while others were decreased. Each type of bacteria in the gut plays a certain role, and they all interact with each other to produce various effects on

our health, so a discrepancy in any type of bacteria has consequences.

But one of the main questions researchers are trying to answer relating to every aspect of the gut microbiome is, "Which comes first, the disease or the biome?"

Because the gut microbiome has not been studied for very long and there is only limited human data relating to it, researches have not yet been able to determine whether diseases cause change in the biome or whether a change in the biome causes a disease.

This is still a question regarding the development of Parkinson's disease. It is known that exposure to certain chemical pesticides may increase a person's risk of developing Parkinson's, and one role of the gut microbiome is to help rid the body of potential toxins.

According to the lead researcher, Haydeh Payami, at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, this study found that the microbiome of a Parkinson's patient had differing amounts of the bacteria that aid in ridding the body of these chemicals.

While it is much too early to jump to any conclusions, these data question whether a difference



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Mice models have shown how Parkinson's disease alters our gut's microbiome.

in the gut biome could put someone at greater risk for Parkinson's disease or whether the development of Parkinson's causes a difference in the gut biome.

The research done by the team also called into question the effects of the drugs used to treat Parkinson's and how they can alter the microbiome.

"It could be that, in some people, a drug alters the microbiome so that it causes additional health problems in the form of side effects," Payami said. "Another consideration is that the natural variability in the microbiome could be a reason some people benefit from a given drug and others are unresponsive."

So not only could this microbiome research lead to possible prevention of Parkinson's, but taking into account a person's microbiome when designing a course of treatment could not only reduce side effects, but also make the medication more effective.

Of course, all of these findings are preliminary,

as not much other research has been done into figuring out the relationship of the gut biome with Parkinson's disease specifically, but projects across the country and internationally are being done to try to better understand this massively overlooked system.

Similar to gene mapping, a popular project being run out of University of California San Diego called the American Gut Project, is attempting to map the gut biomes of as many people as possible in an attempt to understand how people with certain diseases from certain areas and with certain lifestyles may have different gut microbiomes.

Studies with mice have already shown how critical the gut biome is to our health, since transplanting the gut biome alone can transfer certain diseases from some mice to previously healthy mice. If scientists can successfully map enough gut microbiomes, they may be able to unlock its mysteries.

Researchers use gene surgery to treat blindness

BLIND FROM B7

develop a new potential treatment for non-hereditary blindness.

By modifying genes in tissues necessary for retinal health in mice through this "gene surgery," as scientists at the Center for Genome Engineering have described it, it is possible to treat age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Those afflicted by the degenerative disease, which affects about one in every ten people over the age of 65, often see blind spots and suffer from distorted vision.

AMD is caused by an excessive secretion of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) from retinal pigment epithelium cells, which in turn induces leakage of blood and fluid into the eye. This can then damage the macula, an

area in the center of the retina.

Currently, AMD treatments consist of at least seven anti-VEGF injections per year.

However, the treatment addresses only the effects of the VEGF overexpression. With the study's new CRISPR-Cas9 technique, scientists hope to introduce less invasive and longer-lasting therapies to patients.

In the study, scientists used CRISPR-Cas9 to modify the VEGF gene in mice with wet AMD

(a more severe type of AMD) via injection. As predicted, only the VEGF gene was affected. To assess the efficacy of the treatment, researchers

"[S]urgeons will be able to cut and paste disease-causing genetic elements in patients."

— KIM JIN-SOO,
CENTER FOR GENOME
ENGINEERING

then monitored choroidal neovascularization, or the formation of new blood vessels in the eye (a common issue in wet AMD).

They discovered a 58 percent decrease in the area of the eye expected to suffer from choroidal neovascularization in normal wet AMD progression.

In addition, scientists noted that cone dysfunction, another side effect of wet AMD that typically occurs within three days, was absent a week after the treatment.

The study shows promise for future treatments of diseases both hereditary and non-hereditary for both children and adults.

"We envision that, in the future, surgeons will be able to cut and paste disease-causing genetic elements in patients," Kim Jin-Soo, director of the Center for Genome Engineering, said in a press release.

Now that the method has been proven effective in mice, the Center for Genome Engineering plans to continue pre-clinical trials in order to confirm the efficacy of CRISPR-Cas9 treatments for humans.

Repurposed drug found to reduce risk for diabetes

DIABETES FROM B7

reported stomach discomfort as the primary side effect.

The team estimated that liraglutide would lower the chances of onset of Type 2 diabetes by 70 percent. They predicted that after three-plus years of treatment, 20 percent of individuals in the placebo group would have diabetes while six percent in the liraglutide group would suffer from the dis-

ease.

At the end of the three-year period, 11 percent of participants in the placebo group had diabetes while only three percent of individuals in the liraglutide group had diabetes.

Sixty-six percent of participants in the liraglutide group who had initially had prediabetes no longer had it, while only 46 percent of individuals in the placebo

group had regressed.

They also found that it took approximately three times longer for participants in the liraglutide group to get diabetes than those participants in the placebo group. Although the drug has proven to be effective, it is currently very expensive to obtain.

"Liraglutide promotes weight loss by activating brain areas that control appetite and eating,

so that people feel fuller sooner after meals and their food intake is reduced," Carel le Roux, professor at the Conway Institute of University College Dublin, said in a press release. "Although liraglutide's role in weight loss is well known, this is the first time it has been shown to essentially reverse prediabetes and prevent diabetes, albeit with the help of diet and exercise."

Baseball upsets two NBA experiencing a changing of the guard



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
The baseball team is riding high after upsetting the nation's top teams.

By ESTHER HONG
Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's baseball team rallied late in both games last Sunday to earn victories against the first-ranked Cortland State Red Dragons and the second-ranked Keystone Giants.

"We were definitely happy to get two wins against two quality opponents. We played hard and didn't give up after going down in both games," junior third baseman Mike Smith said.

Hopkins faced off against the Red Dragons first but quickly fell behind 3-0 after five innings. The Jays bounced back in the sixth inning when senior catcher Ryan Orgielewicz hit an infield single to score a run. The Blue Jays followed with a bases-loaded walk, nearly tying up the game at 3-2.

The Red Dragons scored an unearned run at the top of the seventh inning, giving them a two-run lead. Despite the lead, Hopkins responded quickly. Freshman infielder Dillon Bowman hit a bases-loaded single to ignite a two-run rally, which tied up the game at four.

Grabbing their final lead, the Red Dragons scored a sacrifice fly in the top of the ninth inning, making the score 5-4. The one-run deficit did not stop the Blue Jays. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Smith blasted a walk-off, two-run home run to take down top-ranked Cortland State.

"I was surprised the ball went out," Smith said. "On a cold, windy day, I was just trying to get something to the outfield to get the run in. I was at a loss for words."

After a quick 30-minute turnaround, Hopkins came back onto the field to take on Keystone. The Jays, similar to their last game, gave up three runs within the first two innings.

But Hopkins got themselves on the scoreboard in the bottom of the second when Smith, with the help of an error and senior outfielder TJ Gordon's two-out single, reached home to cut the deficit to 3-1.

The Giants responded with three more runs within the next two innings, expanding their lead to 6-1 heading into the bottom of the fourth inning. The Giants went scoreless in the top of the fifth, with senior outfielder Brian Lin making three straight catches in right field for the Blue Jays.

Hopkins fought back with two runs in the bot-

tom of the fifth inning to cut Keystone's lead to 6-3. First, with senior shortstop Conor Reynolds and Bowman on base, Smith hit a single to send Reynolds home. Next, freshman second baseman Mike Eberle singled for his first career RBI to score Bowman.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, the Jays tied up the game at 6-6 after a walk, an error and a Blue Jay hit.

Sophomore pitcher Sean McCracken struck out a Giants batter and earned a pair of ground outs to close out the top of the seventh inning and keep the Giants from scoring. In the bottom of the seventh, Hopkins once again loaded the bases.

Orgielewicz hit a ground out but gave Lin just enough time to slide into home, pushing the Jays in front 7-6.

"There were two standard defensive plays while I was pitching by Smith and Reynolds, where they both had to charge in and were able to get the guys out by just a hair on both plays," McCracken said.

The game was called at the bottom of the seventh inning for darkness, handing the Jays the 7-6 victory over the second-ranked Giants.

"I thought it was great to see us persevere and never give up, which is something that is often easy [to do] in a baseball game, especially when you are losing, but we never had the feeling we were out of the game," McCracken said.

Despite the impressive rankings of the Red Dragons and the Giants, the Blue Jays approached the doubleheader the same way as they would any other game.

"Our mindset was the same as any game day. Go out there and execute and perform. It doesn't matter who is in the other dug-out," Smith said.

With a promising start to their season, the Jays are motivated to reach their goal of winning the College World Series.

"These wins were huge for our team. Finally getting over the hump and beating top level teams was something we haven't been able to do in years past. There's still plenty of things to work on and areas to improve in, and we will have to focus on those going forward," Smith said.

Hopkins returns to Stromberg Stadium to face off against Case Western Reserve University in a doubleheader on Saturday, Mar. 11.



Daniel Landy
DanLand

The NBA hinges on the success of its superstars. In the highest echelon are the perennial MVP favorites, including forwards LeBron James and Kevin Durant and guards Steph Curry, Russell Westbrook and James Harden.

Not far behind are the likes of guards John Wall and forwards Kawhi Leonard, Paul George and Jimmy Butler, who have each asserted themselves as the go-to players on contending teams.

Then there are the young stars, the leaders of the league's next generation who have already established themselves as the Association's next great players. There are a handful of players that fit this criteria, but for now, let's construct a hypothetical starting lineup of the best players in the NBA that have yet to celebrate their 25th birthdays.

First up is the position of point guard, where Kyrie Irving of the Cleveland Cavaliers is a no-brainer. The 24 year old, already in his sixth season out of Duke University, has an NBA Championship, four All-Star Game selections and one All-Star Game MVP award to his name.

Irving's success and his rise to the top tier point guards over the past few seasons are in large part due to his opportunity to play alongside LeBron James.

Nevertheless, he has still been able to differentiate himself from "King James" through his ability to make game changing, awe-inspiring plays. Most notably, his incredible game-winning three-pointer in Game 7 of the NBA Finals will go down as one of the most memorable baskets in league history.

He has come back even better this year, averaging a career high 25 points per game, despite sharing the court with James and

the rest of the Cavaliers' lethal lineup. While he is certainly privileged to be surrounded by one of the league's most talented rosters, Irving has managed to distinguish himself as basketball's next great point guard.

Washington Wizards shooting guard Bradley Beal takes the other spot in this lineup's backcourt. The fifth-year product out of the University of Florida has grown better and better during his short career, just barely missing out on an All-Star berth this season.

However, that should not diminish the tremendous job that Beal and his teammate, 26-year-old four-time All-Star John Wall, have done in turning the Wizards into one of the best teams in the Eastern Conference.

Beal and Wall have been an extremely effective tandem. Both players are putting up career highs in points and assists, while also managing to develop a winning culture for a team that has not advanced past the second round of the playoffs since 1979.

Beal is not going anywhere after signing an astronomical five-year \$128 million contract this past summer. He, along with Wall, is an absolutely critical component to the Wizards' success this year and going forward.

Expect the Wizards, with their young and dominant backcourt duo, to become a force to be reckoned with in the East Conference for years to come.

The next player is generally considered to be a small forward. However, anyone who has ever watched 6'11" floor general Giannis Antetokounmpo play knows that one position can't contain him.

The "Greek Freak" is something the league has never seen before. Only 22 years old, he leads the Milwaukee Bucks in points. And rebounds. And assists. And steals. And blocks. Such dominance across the board is nearly unheard of in the NBA; Only four players have led their team in all five categories: Dave Cowens, Scottie Pippen, Kevin Garnett and James.

Not bad company.

In addition to his dominance of every major statistical category on his team, Antetokounmpo has increased his totals in each of these statistics during each year of his four-year career.

Antetokounmpo also impresses with his mesmerizing dunks that find their way onto the highlight reels on a nightly basis. He was especially impressive during his first All-Star Game last month, when he repeatedly showcased his extraordinary dunking ability throughout the exhibition.

Antetokounmpo is a one-of-a-kind player who has a chance to become one of the best, if not the best, players in the NBA. The Bucks are doing all they can to keep him in Milwaukee as long as possible, having already signed him to a four-year, contract extension in September.

If Jabari Parker and the rest of the team's young core continue to improve, this Bucks team will turn into a contender for the foreseeable future with everything centered around Antetokounmpo.

Capping off the lineup are two big men that share quite a lot in common: Anthony Davis and Karl-Anthony Towns. Both are "one-and-done" players out of the University of Kentucky, first overall picks, Rookies of the Year and now double-double machines.

Davis, just 23 years old, is in his fifth season with the New Orleans Pelicans. He has always filled up the stat sheet in points, rebounds and blocks, due to his unique combination of size, strength and athleticism.

Much like Antetokounmpo, he made a statement in the All-Star Game, scoring a game-record 52 points in his home arena. Davis is getting better and better; However, the Pelicans' recent acquisition of DeMarcus Cousins, another one-and-done big man out of Kentucky, may hurt Davis' numbers a bit.

Regardless, Davis is a top five player in the NBA who, with the addition of Cousins, will finally have the opportunity to turn the Pelicans into a perennial

contender.

21-year-old Towns, who is in his second season with the Minnesota Timberwolves, has also had a tremendous start to his career. Statistically, he surpassed the numbers that Davis put up early in his career. He is right alongside James Harden and Russell Westbrook in the pursuit of the league lead in double-doubles and only trails Davis and Cousins in scoring among the NBA's big men.

If Towns and his teammate Andrew Wiggins continue to develop into superstars and the rest of Minnesota's core improves as well, the Timberwolves, should finally be able to turn things around and qualify for the playoffs for the first time since 2004.

Minnesota should not be expected to sneak into the playoffs this year, but they should have enough talent to be considered a contender next year. If the Wolves cannot find a way to win, their window will close quickly, as both Towns and Wiggins will only be under team control for so long before they hit free agency. In the meantime, Towns will continue to assert his dominance as one of the game's best young big men.

Irving, Beal, Antetokounmpo, Davis and Towns make quite the lineup. Each of these players is absolutely instrumental in his team's success, but as the evidence shows, one player cannot turn a team into a contender on his own.

Irving is the most accomplished of the bunch because he is playing second fiddle to LeBron. Beal is on a revived Wizards team that owes much of its success to not only John Wall but to one of the deepest rosters in the NBA.

Antetokounmpo and the Bucks were in playoff position until Jabari Parker went down with a season-ending ACL injury. Since Parker's injury, the team has struggled to stay afloat and has dropped out of the Eastern Conference's top eight.

Davis and Towns are surrounded by a wealth of young players that are improving but are not nearly skilled enough to make a run at the NBA's elite squads.

These five players may represent the future of the NBA, but they will always only be as good as the players they have around them.

Men's Lacrosse mauled by Princeton Tigers

M. LAX, FROM B12

In a punishing mood after their loss to the Hofstra Pride the previous week, Princeton went on to bury three more goals. Sims scored his fourth goal of the day, and junior Riley Thompson and sophomore Charlie Durbin added one apiece before the buzzer sounded for halftime.

The Tigers scored on 7-17 shots, while the Jays were unable to capitalize on any opportunity in the second quarter, going 0-10 and pushing their deficit to eight, as they headed into the locker room down 10-2.

The Tigers came out of the half just as dominant as they were from the start, firmly taking control of the game and capturing three more goals over the visiting Jays.

Sims capitalized just 45 seconds into the third quarter for his fifth goal

of the contest to bring the score to 11-2. Senior Adam Hardej then found the net, followed by Durbin, who scored his second of the day to increase the Princeton lead to double digits.

Hopkins reduced the lead back to 10 when senior attack Wilkins Dis-muke buried a goal off of a rebound, the first goal the Jays were able to muster since Smith's goal in the first quarter.

Still, the Jays could not stop Sims from finding the net. He went on to score his sixth and final goal for the Tigers midway through the third quarter, a career high for the junior.

Both teams would score once more before the end of the third quarter, putting the game at 16-4 going into the fourth. Three minutes into the final quarter, sophomore attack Kyle Marr notched a goal for the



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
The Blue Jays suffered a massive defeat against the Princeton Tigers.

Blue Jays. Seven goalless minutes later, junior attack Shack Stanwick scored his eighth goal of the season, putting the game at 16-6.

Junior midfielder Brinton Valis would round out the scoring for the day, scoring at the tail end of the game for the Jays to finalize the score at 18-7.

The loss ends the Jays' four-game win streak that began the season, while the Tigers improved their record to 3-1. The Blue Jays dropped from No. 3 to No.

6 in the NCAA rankings.

The Blue Jays will travel across Baltimore to face off against the Towson University Tigers this Saturday afternoon.

There, they will look to avenge their devastating loss to Princeton and prove that it was nothing more than a speed bump.

With Conference play starting in three games, it will be important for the Jays to be firing on all cylinders in order to maximize their playoff chances.

SPORTS

Which NCAA teams will dance in March?

NCAA, FROM B12
already finished their season and now leave their hopes to the selection committee.

They lost in the Missouri Valley Conference championship game to the Wichita State Shockers in decisive fashion with a score of 71-51. That loss, combined with a 40-point loss to Wichita State earlier in the season, could be a fatal blow for the Redbirds.

According to Pomeroy, Illinois State was 106th in strength of schedule and was also the fifth luckiest team (this means their record does not reflect their actual performance). While they have the 134th-ranked offense, the biggest claim they have going for themselves is their defense, which is rated 14th in the country.

Even with that, it would take a minor miracle for the Redbirds to play again this year in anything other than the National Invitation Tournament (NIT).

Next we will look at the Rhode Island Rams, who will be playing in the Atlantic 10 Conference Tournament this coming week.

With no teams ranked in the top 25 in the tournament, the Rhode Island Rams will have to earn their spot. If they can beat a solid University of Dayton team, they have a good shot of making the tournament.

Currently, Rhode Island is the 51st best team according to Pomeroy.

While they do not do any one thing particularly well, they are solid on both offense and defense, ranking in the top 100 in both. They have also been a relatively unlucky team and have a top 100 strength of schedule. Considering all of this, the Rams can make a very solid case to be included in this year's tournament.

The final team is the Kansas State Wildcats, who are actually the highest rated team out of these four on Pomeroy. Being in the Big 12 Conference,

they will have plenty of chances to beat high-ranked competition, starting with their first round matchup against the Baylor Bears University. I believe that as long as the Wildcats prove to be competitive throughout their first round game, they will undoubtedly guarantee themselves a tournament spot this March.

The Villanova Wildcats are the 32nd ranked team on Pomeroy, with a nearly top 50 offense and nearly top 30 defense.

Their subpar 19-12 record can be attributed to a harsh Big 12 Conference, which can be considered one of the best in the country (particularly by Pomeroy). They were 24th in strength of schedule and were the 263rd luckiest team, which shows that in

addition to making the tournament, they should be considered a threat to whichever team they play.

To close, I will touch on some of the teams I think are most likely to win the tournament. As stated before, the national champion has been in the top 10 of the Pomeroy rankings in 14 of the last 15 years and has been in the top three in 12 of the last 15 years.

This year's top three are the Gonzaga Bulldogs, the Villanova Wildcats and the West Virginia Mountaineers. The first two are expected, as Gonzaga dominated the lackluster West Coast Conference, and Villanova, the reigning national champions, have played exceptionally throughout the regular season.

It is West Virginia that is a surprise, as they are only 11th in the most recent rankings and are currently projected to be a four seed in the tournament by Joe Lunardi of ESPN.

If you are looking for a sleeper team that could win it all, my bet would be on West Virginia, as Pomeroy has proven to be a great indicator for success in the past.

By COURTNEY COLWELL
For The News-Letter

The Hopkins men's baseball team faced a daunting task this weekend: a doubleheader against the number one and number two teams in NCAA D-III. The Jays themselves were only ranked 40th.

Despite formidable odds, in what will surely go down in Hopkins baseball history, the

Blue Jays managed to defeat both the top-seeded Cortland State Red Dragons and the second-ranked Keystone Giants to bring their record to 3-1.

This was the first time since May 2008 that the Jays beat a number one ranked team.

Games that result in such victories are surely the result of a large team effort, making the task of selecting Athlete of the Week challenging. Nevertheless, the climax of the weekend had to be junior third baseman Mike Smith's two-run, walk-off home run against Cortland.

This junior standout has been a reliable performer for the Jays throughout his three years. Consistently start-

ing at third base since his rookie season, Smith is known throughout the Centennial Conference as a true competitor.

"Mike is a gamer. He always carries the same demeanor on the field whether we are up 10 runs or down 10," junior teammate Zach Jaffe said. "Most importantly, he is one of the guys I always want up when there is a big play."

Fortunately for the Jays, it was Smith at the

plate in the bottom of the ninth with two outs in the inning, with the Jays just moments away from defeat. With 3-1 on the count, Cort-

land's pitcher, junior Patrick Merryweather, threw a fastball down the middle. Smith hit Merryweather's fastball out of the park.

Smith's walk-off homer, along with his team-leading five RBI's on the day, earned him the honor of being named the Centennial Conference Player of the Week, announced this past Monday.

Smith was kind enough to visit Colwell's Court following his tremendous performance to discuss what this weekend meant to him and his

teammates.

The News-Letter: Facing the top two teams in the nation, what were the team's expectations going into Sunday's games?

Mike Smith: We expected to go out and win both games. We believe in our pitching, defense and hitting and feel that we can compete with anyone in the country.

N-L: With two outs in the inning and the team down by one, what was going through your head when you walked up to the plate for your last at-bat?

MS: Going up to the plate, I was thankful Dillon Bowman had been able to reach base and then steal second. With him in scoring position, I was just trying to put a ball in the outfield to score the run, and it ended up going out of the ballpark.

N-L: How did it feel to hit a walk-off home run against the number one team in the country?

MS: It was pretty amazing hitting a walk-off homer against them, but that moment would not have been possible without everyone else doing their job and keeping us in the game.

N-L: Coming off the exciting win against Cortland, was it hard for the team to remain focused for game two? How tired were you going into the game against Keystone?

MS: It was a little tough refocusing for

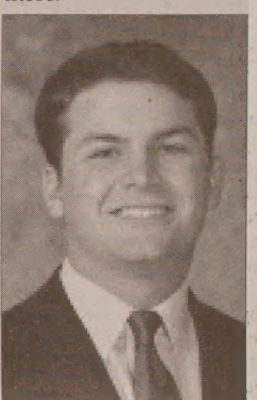
game two against Keystone. We were excited and had a little hangover from the win against Cortland. We got down early in game two, but thankfully we were able to come back again and get another huge win.

N-L: How have the two games shaped team morale?

MS: Team morale is higher than I have seen it in my three years here. This was our first time getting over the hump and beating a top tier team, and I could not be more proud of all the guys.

N-L: Any personal goals for the rest of the season?

MS: Obviously I want to play well, but I do not have any personal goals. Team success and winning the Conference Championship, as well as making it to the World Series are my only goals, and together I think the team can achieve all of these.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Third baseman Mike Smith.

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: Mike Smith
Year: Junior
Sport: Baseball
Major: Civil Engineering
Hometown: Charlotte, N.C.
High School: South Mecklenburg

M. and W. Fencing make program history

By EMILIE HOFFER
Sports Editor

This past weekend, the Hopkins men's and women's fencing teams both brought home a collection of hardware. On Saturday, the women competed in the 89th National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association (NIWFA) Championship. The men would wait until Sunday to compete in the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Fencing Association (MACFA) Championship.

For the women, the day's highlights began with the Sabre competition. The Sabre squad, made up of sophomore Shiao-meng Tse and her freshman teammates Alicja Tomaszewski, Erin Chen and Natalie Martinez brought home the Jays' first ever Giorgio Santelli Trophy. Finishing with a combined record of 45-3, the quartet claimed the Sabre title.

To add to the team victory, Chen would finish with an impressive 20-0 on the day to claim the individual NIWFA Sabre Trophy. Before going into the finals, Chen would remain undefeated in the B strip, finishing with a 16-0 mark. She would move onto the finals, where she would claim the title after going 4-0.

Chen's 20 wins bring her to 100 total wins on the season, the most by any freshman in any weapon in school history. Most impressively, the freshman already ranks eighth in Hopkins history in career Sabre wins.

The women's Epee squad would have another successful team performance, taking second place with a 43-5 record. Hopkins finished just one point shy of the win behind the first-place Temple University Owls. Senior Katherine Couch led the Epee squad, winning the A strip with a 15-1 record and then moving onto the finals where she would place fifth.

The senior would end her day with a total of 103 wins on the season, breaking the program's all-weapons single-season and career wins records, which previously stood at 99. Chen (who also broke the previous record) and Couch are now the only two fencers in Hopkins history to reach 100 wins in a single season.

The Blue Jays ended the day with two women, Chen and Martinez, earning First Team All-NIWFA honors and three more, Couch, Tomaszewski and freshman Foil Katherine Xiang, grabbing Second Team honors.

Moving onto Sunday, the men's team faced tight competition in the MACFA Championship. The Jays were looking to redeem themselves after a heart-

breaking second place finish last year by one win to the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT).

"Going into the day, the goal was always to win," junior Epee Denis Routkevitch said. "Before the day started Danny [Dembner], our captain, gathered us and made sure we knew each point and every point mattered and to fence hard for every touch, which ended up being crucial."

Ultimately, the Jays were able to edge out NJIT this year in a tiebreaker. Both teams finished with 102 total victories, leaving the championship title up to the tiebreaker.

The tiebreaker was decided by total number of indicators, or the difference between touches scored and touches received. Hopkins would claim the championship crown with 300 total indicators, 43 more than NJIT.

"We were really excited to win this time by an even closer margin," Routkevitch said.

In addition to the team title, the Blue Jays would

also take the individual titles in the Epee and Foil Championships. The Foil squad won its 17th MACFA title with a total of 36 wins.

NJIT finished behind the Jays in second with 32 victories. The Jays' squad was led by freshman Adam Katwan, who finished second in the A strip with a 12-2 record. Katwan would make it to the semifinals, where he finished tied for third overall.

The Epee squad would record its 25th MACFA title on Sunday, with 32 total wins, while NJIT would again sit in second. Freshman Tiger Gao finished 10-4 in the A strip and went on to finish tied for third after losing to the eventual champion in the semifinals. Meanwhile, Routkevitch would finish the day with 161 career Epee wins, moving him into ninth place in school history.

The Blue Jays will compete next on Saturday, March 11 in the NCAA Mid-Atlantic/South Regional in Easton, Pa.



GHOST937/CC BY-SA 4.0
The Villanova Wildcats won last year with a thrilling buzzer-beater play.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
The Hopkins players after winning their record 29th MACFA Championship in Baltimore.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Sophomore Felicia Koerner was named the Centennial Conference Outstanding Track Performer for the indoor season after winning both the 3000 and the 5000-meter at the Centennial Championships.

CALENDAR

Friday:
Track @ NCAA Championship
Wrestling @ NCAA Championship

Saturday:
M. Lax @ Towson; 12 p.m.
Baseball vs. Case Western; 12 p.m.
W. Lax @ Hofstra; 1 p.m.

NCAA “bubble teams” battle for final spots



Gregory Melick
Sportpinion

With Selection Sunday less than a week away, we have a pretty good idea of where teams will be seeded in the NCAA tournament, so all that is left to do is to predict which teams will be the last to make it and predict which teams will fall just short. In addition, we can now begin to make wild guesses as to which teams will be this year's Cinderella story and which teams will fail to perform.

On the NCAA website, the first stat that will be looked at when evaluating a team will be the team's Rating Percentage Index (RPI). The RPI is a number given to every team that weighs the team's winning percentage and its opponents' winning percentage.

In addition to RPI, the committee members conduct the “eye-test,” where they look at the team's performance (scores, schedules, record, quality of play) in order to determine which teams deserve to get one of the 36 at-large bids.

This year, the teams still waiting to see if they'll compete in the tournament, or the bubble teams, include the University of Southern

California Trojans, the Illinois State Redbirds, the University of Rhode Island Rams and the Kansas State Wildcats.

I will use the Pomeroy College Basketball Ratings to compare these teams to make the final decision as to which two should make it into the tournament. Over the last 15 years, the Pomeroy rankings have been the most accurate rating systems, as the NCAA champion has been in the top 10 of these rankings in 14 of the last 15 years.

We will start out with the USC Trojans, who are the sixth seed in the Pac-12 Tournament, which means that in order to win it all, they would have to beat all three Pac-12 teams ranked in the top seven, assuming those teams win against lesser opponents. If they can even beat one of those teams (it would be their crosstown rival, the University of California, Los Angeles in the quarterfinals) they will almost certainly be given a spot in the tournament.

They have already beaten UCLA once this year, so it is not out of the question, but Pomeroy has them as the lowest rated team out of the four teams we will be looking at. They are 44th in offensive efficiency and 95th in defensive efficiency, which puts them at 61st overall. Even with these numbers boding poorly for them, do not be surprised if an end of the season win against the number three team in the country puts them in the big dance.

Next up are the Illinois State Redbirds, who have

SEE NCAA, B11

Baseball beats top two teams over the weekend



This past weekend, the Hopkins baseball team hosted the top two teams in the nation when they squared off against Cortland State and Keystone College. The Jays won each of the games in a riveting game. They bested Cortland State 6-5 on a ninth inning walk-off home run from junior Mike Smith. The Jays would rally from a 6-1 deficit in the second game to defeat Keystone 7-6, before the game was called in the seventh inning for darkness. With the wins, the Jays improved to 5-1 early in the season and enhanced their hopes of making a deep College World Series run.

B10

INSIDE

NBA: Top players under 25

Daniel Landy creates a five-man starting lineup with the best players under 25 at each position, offering who he thinks is most ready to compete for championships.

PAGE B10

Fencing brings home the hardware

The men's and women's fencing teams both dominated at their respective championship tournaments, winning a number of individual and team awards.

PAGE B11

Colwell's Court: Mike Smith

This week, *The News-Letter* highlights junior Mike Smith, whose walk-off home run led the Jays to an upset win over top ranked Cortland State in an instant classic.

PAGE B11

INSIDE

W. Lax win thriller against Hoyas in overtime

By GAURAV VERMA
Sports Editor

After a tough loss against the University of Pennsylvania Quakers two weekends ago, the Hopkins women's lacrosse team bounced back last week with a dramatic overtime win against the Georgetown University Hoyas and a resounding victory against the Furman University Paladins. The wins bring the Jays to an impressive 5-1 record to open the season.

In the Wednesday night battle at Homewood Field, Georgetown jumped to an early 2-0 lead less than three minutes into play. It was not until the 26:21 mark that the Blue Jays would get on the board when junior midfielder Shannon Fitzgerald found freshman attack Maggie Schneidereith, who scored the Jays' first goal of the game.

Georgetown attack Taylor Gebhardt scored her second goal of the game, converting on a free position attempt at the 24:59 mark, but the Blue Jays were quick to answer. Just under a minute later, Fitzgerald would again assist the play, finding freshman midfielder Lexi Soudier, who made it a 3-2 game.

Although the Hoyas would regain their two-goal lead at the 19:05 mark, their lead would not last long. Back-to-back goals by senior attacker Alexis Maffucci over the next nine minutes would tie the game at four with 10:47 left in the half. The Hoyas would capitalize on another free position attempt, but it was the Blue Jays who would go into the locker room with the momentum.

First, senior midfielder Haley Schweizer assisted

Schneidereith on her second goal of the game. Then, a minute later, Schneidereith assisted sophomore attack Miranda Ibello on a high-to-low in the high slot, with just 30 seconds left on the clock. The two goals put the Jays on top 6-5 at the half.

Junior attack CeCe Finney opened the scoring in the second half with a goal just 47 seconds into play, again assisted by Schneidereith. At the 16:22 mark, Maffucci capped off her hat trick with a high-to-low goal from the left alley, assisted by Schweizer. About three minutes later, Schneidereith notched a hat trick as well, capitalizing on a redirect with 13:38 left to play.

The back and forth nature of the game continued. Georgetown pulled even on goals from attack Emily Ehle and midfielder Georgia Tunney at the 11:52 and 5:34 marks, respectively. Meanwhile, Schneidereith would again pull the Blue Jays ahead, 10-9 with 2:56 left to play.

Hopkins held onto the lead into the final minutes, until Georgetown capitalized on yet another free position, knotting the game at 10 with 43.1 seconds left to play. Senior goalie Caroline Federico, who made 15 saves in the game, turned away a last second shot by the Hoyas, forcing the game into overtime.

“Before we went out there, our mindset was to get the draw and to not let the ball get to their end again,” Finney said.

The Jays succeeded, executing their plan as Schweizer won the opening draw. Just 1:27 in, Ibello passed the ball to Finney, who then quickly shot and scored to seal a thrilling 11-10 win for the Jays.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Senior Caroline Federico stopped 15 shots against Georgetown.

“I was able to stay calm during that last shot because of the faith I have in my teammates,” Finney said. “Knowing that my teammates have my back and would cover me allowed me to not be afraid to make a mistake and to take that shot.”

Both Ibello and Schneidereith were honored by the Big Ten for their performances in the game. Ibello was named the Co-Offensive Player of the Week while Schneidereith was honored as the Freshman of the Week. Ibello credited the Hoyas for a well-fought game.

“The Georgetown game was a great match up for us; We capitalized on our opportunities and Georgetown would give it right back,” Ibello said. “We really captured the momentum at the beginning of OT when we won the draw, which was key to eventually winning the game.”

The Blue Jays continued their winning ways with a dominating 15-5 win against Furman on Sunday afternoon at Homewood. The Jays were hot from the start with Schweizer opening the scoring for Hopkins just 35 seconds into the game, with Ibello adding a goal off a free position

opportunity just 2:50 later.

Already ahead 10-3 by the end of the first half, the second half brought on more dominance from the Jays. Sophomore Nicole DeMase opened the half by capping off a hat trick with the assist coming from Ibello, her fifth of the game. Fitzgerald, Maffucci and Schweizer would score the next three goals of the game, giving Schweizer a hat trick as well.

“Our offensive unit was so successful because we won the draws, finished our shots, and if we did turn the ball over, we got it back during our ride,” said Ibello.

The Paladins would add a pair of consolation goals, but it was Hopkins who drew the final blood. With 4:44 left to play, Fitzgerald capped off her hat trick to give the Jays a 15-5 lead, which would hold until the final whistle.

“We really focused a lot on some of the smaller things, like 50-50 balls at the draw and hustle plays that hurt us against Penn,” Schweizer said. “We knew Furman struggled in transition so pushing that really set the quick pace for our offense... we focused on being unselfish and throwing the ball in there.”

Tigers halt M. Lax win streak at four games

By BRANDON WOLFE
For The News-Letter

It was a rough outing for the Hopkins men's lacrosse team this past Saturday. Travelling to New Jersey to take on the Princeton Tigers, the Blue Jays struggled to get rolling while the Tigers quickly pounced on the teetering Jays.

Junior Austin Sims shifted the momentum early on in favor of the Tigers, scoring twice in less than two minutes, while freshman Michael Sowers followed suit, tossing in another goal to extend the Princeton lead to three within the first seven minutes of the game.

In need of a spark, the Jays managed to score

twice within 60 seconds thanks to efforts by senior Austin Spencer and freshman Forry Smith. Stirring up some momentum, the Jays would trail the Tigers 3-2 as they ended the first quarter.

Unfortunately for the Jays, Princeton quickly

crushed their hopes of sparking a potential comeback. Sowers buried a goal, followed by Sims, who scored his third of the day.

Senior Gavin McBride then notched two goals for Princeton within just 30 seconds of each other.

After tallying four goals in just a four-minute span halfway through the second quarter, the Tigers were suddenly up 7-2.

SEE M. LAX, B10